

Lebanon slaps visa restriction on Palestinians

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon has slapped new visa restrictions on Palestinians for the first time in almost 50 years in a bid to control a flood of people ordered out of Libya.

Interior Minister Michael Murr announced last Saturday that even Palestinians with Lebanese travel documents forced out by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi would have to apply for a visa to enter Lebanon.

"The Lebanese embassies have been instructed to provide visas only after the approval of the interior ministry and state security," Mr. Murr said, after an emergency cabinet meeting.

Colonel Qadhafi has decided to expel Palestinians as well as other Arab nationals whose work contracts have run out. The decision could affect as many as 30,000 people of which 10,000 have Lebanese travel papers.

Some 400 Palestinians have already arrived in Lebanon, which shelters about 300,000 refugees, and are trying to find a place in the already swollen and impoverished refugee camps.

It is the first time since the arrival of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon in 1948, following the creation of Israel, that measures have been taken by the government to control their movements.

Under accords struck between the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) and Arab host countries, those states which have given Palestinian travel documents are obliged to receive them.

But it was unclear Sunday whether Lebanon was trying to challenge those accords.

Palestinians reacted angrily Sunday to the new restrictions. The head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Lebanon, Sultan Abul Aynain, said it was "a total war against the Palestinians aimed at cutting their numbers by forcing them to leave and preventing those who are abroad from returning."

Fateh dissident Munir Maqad, who controls the 'Ain Hiliweh camp, the largest in Lebanon, said Beirut's decision was "hasty and will step up the human, social and economic pressures on the Palestinians who have been deprived of work in Libya,

which is refused them in Lebanon."

Col. Qadhafi's call on Arab nations to expel Palestinians to the West Bank to show up "the failure" of the Israeli-PLO autonomy accords, has also been slammed by Hamas as "erroneous."

Most of the Palestinians arriving back from Libya have refused to talk to journalists for fear of harming relatives they have left behind.

Omar, a 38-year-old doctor, said: "The Libyans have not renewed the work contracts of thousands of Palestinians in the past months. I waited four months, and then I just despaired."

Saad, 28, a sociologist said: "It became impossible to stay after Qadhafi's speech and the rumours of attacks on my compatriots."

Lebanon on Friday closed shipping routes with Libya, and Foreign Minister Fares Bouze said the country could not cope with such a flood of people.

Meanwhile, Egyptian border police said 200 Palestinians had arrived in buses at Egyptian border post of Salloum on Sunday.

The Palestinians, most of whom held work permits in Libya, said police rounded them up from their homes and put them on buses for the Egyptian border.

The buses were then sent on to Rafah on the border between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, officials at Salloum said.

Authorities at Beirut port refused entry to more than half of the Palestinians who arrived aboard the two ships from Libya because they did not carry Lebanese travel documents, Mr. Murr was quoted by the state-run National News Agency as saying on Saturday night.

About 400 were allowed to enter Lebanon.

No Libyan-based Palestinians had entered via Beirut airport, Mr. Murr said.

"Lebanon cannot at present bear a concentrated return of Palestinian deportees from Libya for political, economic and social reasons even if they carry travel documents issued by Lebanon," Mr. Bouze was quoted on Sunday by Al Diyar newspaper as saying.

Iraqi parliament approves Saddam Hussein's nomination as president

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's parliament on Sunday unanimously approved the nomination of Saddam Hussein as the sole candidate in the country's first presidential referendum.

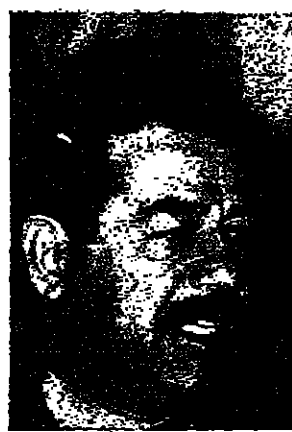
Iraqi officials said they would invite 10,000 foreign observers to oversee the referendum to prove the people's support for President Saddam.

"We are confident that the Iraqi people will have their say, which will constitute a terrible blow to all the evil forces who want to hurt us," said Izzat Ibrahim, vice president of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC).

Mr. Ibrahim was addressing the opening of a special session of parliament called to approve the referendum and the candidacy of President Saddam for another seven-year renewable term.

All 205 deputies present raised their hands in support after 26 members of the 250-seat parliament spoke in President Saddam's favour during a four-hour session.

Among those who will be



Saddam Hussein

invited to observe the referendum will be "parliamentarians and journalists from the United States, Europe and Arab countries, except for Kuwait."

"The observers will be completely free to follow the referendum, from the voting to the announcement of the results," said Mr. Ibrahim.

His speech was interrupted several times by applause and shouts of support for the Iraqi leader.

"Saddam, pride of the na-

tion. Yes, yes, for Saddam," members of the Iraqi parliament shouted.

The RCC nominated President Saddam for presidency on Thursday but agreed it should go before a referendum. He has been unchallenged as head of state since July 1979.

Late Saturday, Iraqi officials drew up a framework for the vote due to take place within 60 days after parliament approves President Saddam's nomination. No date for the referendum has yet been set.

Invitations to observe the referendum will be sent to "all parliaments except Kuwait." Parliamentary Deputy speaker Ghanem Aziz Khadduri told reporters.

"We have sent several invitations to the Kuwaiti parliament in the past, but their reaction has not been positive," he said.

Member of Parliament Mohammad Muzaffar Al Adhami said that "any citizen in the world would vote yes, if he had the chance to have a leader like President Saddam

Hussein."

Another deputy, Sabiha Naim Dghheim, said the "referendum was a plebiscite for President Saddam," adding that "he is the man that the Iraqis want at this stage in history."

President Saddam has been Iraq's head of state since 1979, after being elected the head of the Baath Party, which came to power in 1968. The party seized control of all government powers after a series of coup d'etat that followed the overthrow of the monarchy 10 years earlier.

The council said its decision Thursday to nominate President Saddam for another term was aimed at "responding to lies proliferated by the enemies of Iraq... and foreign scepticism."

Iraqi officials say the referendum would renew allegiance to President Saddam and lend "constitutional legitimacy" to his leadership.

Baghdad newspapers carried a decree signed by President Saddam on Sunday stipulating the set-up of a supreme council to administer the referendum.

Talibans try to woo Rabbani forces

MAIDAN SHAHR, Afghanistan (R) — The Taliban Islamic movement, buoyed by its stunning conquest of the western Afghan city of Herat, is trying to persuade pro-government warlords near Kabul to defect.

A Taliban spokesman, Mullah Musa, said Taliban envoys had contacted several disaffected commanders from factions which ostensibly support Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

"We have had direct talks with some Ittihad-e-Islami commanders in Afghanistan and Paghman districts close to Kabul, and they have said they are willing to join us," Mr. Musa told reporters in Maidan Shahr, where the Taliban are manning frontlines 30 kilometres southwest of the Afghan capital.

"I cannot tell you who they are or when they will change sides, but talks are continuing," he said on Sunday.

Mr. Musa said some Ittihad commanders planned to discuss the Taliban's proposals with their chief, Abdurrahman Rasoul Sayyaf, who has also held indirect negotiations with the Islamic militants.

"With the help of Allah, if we can persuade enough of these commanders who are fed up with the war, we may be able to capture Kabul without a fight," Mr. Musa said.

With his pistol in a shoulder holster under his waistcoat, Mr. Musa made clear that the Taliban would fight if they had to.

One government source denied that the pro-Rabbani alliance was shaky and said its military chiefs were still loyal.

"This is just Taliban propaganda, designed to destabilise our alliance," the source said. "We are in a strong position, and these commanders have no incentive to change sides."

Mr. Musa himself was once a senior member of Harakat Inqilab-e-Islami, a pro-government faction.

And the Taliban's new regional commander in Maidan Shahr, known as Mullah Rockett, earned his nickname firing Stinger ground-to-air missiles for Ittihad-e-Islami.

Mr. Musa said both were trying to convince their former comrades that the Tali-

ban's success in Herat, captured on Tuesday from pro-government provincial Governor Ismail Khan, was no fluke.

The Taliban seized the five Western provinces of Afghanistan last week in spectacular style, reviving fortunes which suffered a severe setback in March when pro-Rabbani forces drove the militia back from the outskirts of Kabul.

After repelling a government offensive from Herat last month, the Taliban overran most of western Afghanistan, including the big Shindand airbase and the city of Herat, controlling access to Iran and Turkmenistan.

Mr. Musa vehemently rejected government allegations that Pakistan had financed and master-minded the Taliban victory.

"If I ever see so much as one Pakistani here, I will leave the Taliban," he said, pounding the floor with his palm.

Taliban fighters around Maidan Shahr appeared rejuvenated and more active than at any time in the past

six months.

Some hauled ammunition to a bunker on a low ridge marking their forward position, while others cleaned weapons and checked vehicles for violations of a Taliban-imposed petrol blockade.

Another confident group of fighters barely flinched when a tank shell exploded on a hillside about 200 metres from their checkpoint as they asked drivers their destinations.

"You can interview us in Kabul," joked one Taliban fighter with a Kalashnikov slung over his shoulder.

On the other side of the frontline, the mood seemed gloomy. Nasir Ahmad and his companion Payenda Mohammed fingered their weapons as they crouched in a bunker beside the main road.

"They are very good fighters," said Mr. Ahmad, referring to the Taliban. "Of course I'm scared, but we will fight to the last bullet if we have to." His companion smiled weakly as he loaded a fresh ammunition belt into his light machinegun.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian, Spanish officials discuss Rushdie

SANTANDER (AFP) — Iranian officials met top civil servants from Spain, currently holding the European Union (EU) presidency, and discussed Iran's death-threat against writer Salman Rushdie, a Spanish foreign ministry spokesman said Sunday. The day-long meeting, which took place Friday, was part of "normal relations" between the European Union (EU) and Tehran, said the spokesman, who was speaking in northern Spain, on the sidelines of an informal meeting of the 15 EU-member states. Friday's meeting was not specifically convened to discuss the death-threat of "fatwa" against the British writer, but the topic was "of course" mentioned, the spokesman added. Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a religious decree calling on Muslims to kill Mr. Rushdie, following publication of his book "The Satanic Verses" some six years ago, which Khomeini charged blasphemed Islam. The EU, of which Spain is holding the rotating six-month presidency until the end of the year, has demanded that Iranian authorities offer a clear guarantee the threat is no longer in operation.

Istanbul explosions cause damage

ISTANBUL (R) — Two explosions hit newspaper offices and a hotel in Istanbul but there were no injuries, Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency said on Sunday. A grenade damaged several buildings when it went off outside a hotel in the tourist area of Salihiye on Saturday night, it said. A small bomb exploded an hour later at a building housing offices of Meydan and Milliyet newspapers in another part of the city. The blast broke windows in the building, the agency said. No group claimed immediate responsibility for the attacks. Kurdish extremists and Islamist militants have often staged bombings in Istanbul.

Iranian opposition reports 30 arrests

NICOSIA (AP) — Security authorities in Iran have broken up a sit-in strike by textile workers demanding unpaid wages and arrested 30, an opposition group said Sunday. The Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran said the workers in the city of Qa'emshahr, northwest of Tehran, began their sit-in on Saturday. Those arrested were being interrogated by a team which arrived in the city from Tehran, it said in a statement faxed to the Associated Press in Cyprus. The council is dominated by the Iraq-based Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, the main Iranian opposition movement. Its report could not be independently confirmed and there has been no word in Iran's official media of any industrial unrest in the Islamic republic.

Romania agrees to start returning Jewish property

TEL AVIV (AP) — Romania has agreed to begin the process of returning Jewish property confiscated during World War II, an Israeli official said Friday. Naphtali Lavie, vice chairman of the World Jewish Restitution Organisation (WJRO), said he signed an agreement in Bucharest Thursday that would assure the return of Jewish communal property seized by the Nazis and communists after 1940. Secretary General of the Romanian Government Viorel Hrebenciuc signed the accord stipulating that the Romanian parliament would vote on a bill within a year that would legally return property, Mr. Lavie said. Mr. Lavie was optimistic the bill would pass. "I met with the president of senate and parliament who gave us full support for our effort," Mr. Lavie said. "I'm sure it will go through."

Ex-Egyptian minister hurt in election clash

CAIRO (Agencies) — Parliamentary elections are expected in November, but no date has been set. Campaigning began in earnest this month between government candidates and a handful of opposition parties.

Gunmen robbed a Christian-owned jewelry store in troubled southern Egypt and killed its owner.

The assailants broke into the shop Saturday night in Farshout, a village in Qena province 465 kilometres south of Cairo, Egypt's Middle East News Agency said.

The owner, Sabry Labib Seifein, died later at a hospital.

Suspected Muslim militants have often robbed jewelry shops owned by Egypt's Christian minority to buy weapons.

Since 1992, more than 800 people have died in the confrontation between the government and the extremists, who want to overthrow the government and install strict Islamic rule. Most of the dead have been militants or police.

Murder probe focuses on Jewish groups

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Police have launched an inquiry among Jewish extremists after the murder of a Palestinian by five gunmen dressed in army uniforms, the authorities said Sunday.

The Jewish national organisation Eyal and the Sword of David, far-right wing groups linked to the outlawed anti-Arab Kach movement, have both claimed responsibility for shooting dead a 23-year-old man overnight Thursday to Friday.

"It is difficult to be sure if the two claims for responsibility are to be taken seriously," Police Minister Moshe Shahal told Israel radio.

But he added: "We know that those who carried out the attack spoke Hebrew, were partly dressed in army uniforms and that three of them wore gas masks."

The army said no troops were in the area at the time.

Eyal leader Amichai Raviv denied Sunday that his group committed the murder, but he said he understood "why they took action."

The gunmen entered Halhoul just north of Hebron, under cover of darkness and broke into several houses. They also beat up two people, one whom was tied up and dumped outside the village.

On Saturday night, five armed men in Israeli army uniforms again appeared in Halhoul, witnesses said.

They tried to kidnap one man but he escaped and reported the incident to the police.

"They spoke Arabic with a strong Hebrew accent," said Halhoul mayor Mohammad Mashal.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe said he feared "a return of a clandestine Jewish terrorist group" which carried out a series of attacks on Arabs in the early 1980s.

Far-right wing religious extremists killed four students in Hebron in 1983 and carried out bomb attacks against the mayors of Al Bireh, Nablus and Ramallah in 1981.

The network was broken up but all those jailed have since been released.

Kach was banned after its leaders voiced support for the murder of 29 Palestinians by a former member of the group in Hebron in February, 1994.

Hebron is the main obstacle to an accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to extend autonomy across the West Bank.

Israel refuses to cede total control of Hebron to the PLO because 400 Jews live in the heart of the city among 120,000 Palestinians.

Work under way on seats

(Continued from page 1)

minister said: "This is not an exceptional list. The students are chosen after competition among these groups themselves and this system also applies to students from the West Bank and other Arab countries."

In the meantime, members of the Council of Higher Education will be allowed

one seat each in a single university for their children and not seats in all universities, he said.

Sharif Zeid said, however, that 1,200 seats will be assigned for students from remote regions where schools lack facilities like those in the cities.

He said that demands that acceptance should be subject

Abequa cleared of kidnap charge

(Continued from page 12)

argument and found Mr. Abequa guilty of second-degree murder.

It was one of the rare cases to be tried in Jordan involving crime committed outside Jordan.

Mr. Abequa had pleaded not guilty to both charges. He had argued that he killed his wife in a fit of fury claiming that his wife was having an affair and because he did not agree with the way his chil-

dren were being brought up. The two children were handed over by the Jordanian government to their maternal aunt in August. Jordan refused a U.S. request to hand over Mr. Abequa since an extradition treaty did not (then) exist between the two countries.

Prosecutor Michael Murphy of Morris County, New Jersey, travelled to the Kingdom to represent the victim's family in the final court session.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp. 29/24
Amman 25/20
Aqaba 25/20
Djersa 18/17
Jordan Valley 24/19

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 33, Aqaba 32 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Munther Al Quraini 894286
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub 779797
Dr. Khalil Al Tushuk 757253
Dr. Mohammad Lubbadah 653585
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 776336
Al Asera pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shimciani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Shogairi 246140
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Haddad 985530
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn. 6442412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642622
Malinas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shimciani 6641714
Shimciani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Islamic, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marfa 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983223
Zarqa National Hospital (09)902561
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hussein Hospital (09)999091
IRBID:
Princess Beata Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727225
The Al Nafud Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200. 5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Sanaa (RJ)
06:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 New Delhi (RJ)
10:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:30 Tunis (add) (RJ)
10:30 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
10:30 Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Sanaa (RJ)
10:30 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:30 Tunis (add) (RJ)
10:30 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
10:30 Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:30 Kharoum (SD)
12:45 Riyadh (add) (SV)
13:00 Doha (Q7)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus
Dep. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Arr. Amman 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apples 600/400
Banana 680
Banana (Makmar) 120
Cabbage 130/80
Carrot 420/300
Cauliflower 220/120
Cucumbers (large) 150/100
Cucumbers (small) 360/200
Eggplant 250/150
Figs 350/250
Garlic 700/500
Grapes 700/600
Guava 700/600
Lemon 360/260
Marrow (large) 200/150
Marrow (small) 380/280
Mushrooms 120/80
Okra 600/700
Onion (dry) 250/180
Orange 420/300
Peaches 200/100
Pepper (hot) 220/120
Pepper (sweet) 340/250
Pomegranate 600/500
Potato 360/260
String Beans 600/500
Sweet Melon 360/260
Tomato 110/70
Water Melon 160/100

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:30 Animals of Farming Wood
15:00 Hey Day
15:30 Survival
16:00 Families
17:00 Children's programme — Rahat
17:30 L'Art de la Discorde
18:00 News in French
19:15 French Varieties
19:30 News Headlines
19:30 Drama — Camp Wilder
20:30 McHale's Navy
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:10 Women of the World
22:00 News in English
22:35 The Ruth Rendell's Mysteries
23:25 Film: "Original Sin"

PRAYER TIMES

04:53 Fajr
06:12 (Sunrise) Duha
12:32 Dhur
16:10 Asr
18:35 Maghrib
20:12 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switcheb, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A hot and dry air mass will affect the Kingdom, so hot weather conditions will prevail with temperatures four degrees centigrade above average, and winds southeasterly to southwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.



DIPLOMATIC CEREMONY: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday accepts the credentials of Guido A. Courtois, Belgium's new ambassador to Jordan, at a ceremony held at the Royal Court. Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti also received a copy of Mr. Courtois' credentials and reviewed with him Jordanian-Belgian relations and means of further enhancing them (Petra photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan to attend ICAO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the 31st meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) which will be held in Montreal on Sept. 19. Taking part in the conference are representatives of 187 countries. The conference will discuss air-transport related issues, including competition laws, taxes, computer reservations systems, developing communications and cooperation with the World Trade Organisation (WTO), in addition to aviation security, and amending the Chicago Convention of 1944, which organises civil aviation. The Jordanian delegation, which will be headed by Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Ahmad Jweiber, will discuss with the ICAO Board, chairman, issues related to air navigation, maps and routes and the need to change them following the recent changes resulting from the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

U.S. investment firm to hold conference here

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Royal patronage, a U.S. firm will hold its annual conference here to discuss with Jordanian businessmen, representatives of investment firms and Jordanian officials the possibility of setting up U.S. investments in Jordan. Pension 2000, which groups directors of U.S. social security and pension funds, will discuss with Jordanian officials and businessmen the possibility of investing 10 per cent of the funds in trust with this firm in world investments. The U.S. company, which is responsible for investing \$500 billion, holds its annual conference in countries with high potential for investments.

Parties send message to Bill Clinton demanding release of Abu Marzouk

AMMAN (J.T.) — Representatives of Islamist, centrist and leftist parties in Jordan sent a message to U.S. President Bill Clinton Sunday demanding that the United States release Mousa Abu Marzouk, a member of Hamas group who was arrested in the United States on July 7, 1995 and warning of adverse consequences on Arab-American relations if Dr. Abu Marzouk was extradited to Israel.

The political parties in Jordan that signed the letter would like to express its outrage and condemnation over the American authorities' arrest of Dr. Abu Marzouk, head of the Hamas politbureau last July upon his arrival in the United States, said the message signed by 44 party members including six Lower House deputies.

These parties view the American measure as part of Washington's hostile policy adopted since the 1940s vis-à-vis the Arab nation in general and the Palestinian people in particular, "a policy which has led to the displacement of our people from their homeland and subjecting the Palestinians to the rule of invaders of the land of Palestine," said the message, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times.

The successive U.S. administrations, added the message, have provided protection to Israel which has usurped Palestine, enabling the Jewish state to extend its hegemony to the entire region.

The letter said the U.S. has adopted the Zionists' plots against our Arab people securing protection for it at the UN Security Council through the use of veto in favour of the Jewish state and through its vast influence on other nations to prevent the council from passing any resolution that would put an end to Israel's aggression.

It has become clear that the U.S. government, which has been calling on other nations to respect human rights, is adopting multi-

faceted policies, said the message.

It said that the U.S. condones crimes committed by the Zionist occupation forces which continue to occupy Arab territories, confiscate Arab lands, murder Arab citizens, raid Southern Lebanese areas and allow American Jews to fight alongside Israeli forces against the Arab countries.

The message said that in contrast, the same U.S. administration is quick to condemn any legitimate resistance act in occupied Palestine and bans Arabs and Muslims living in the United States from expressing humanitarian feelings for and solidarity with the Palestinian people who live under the most severe and cruel circumstances, and prevents them from extending aid to Palestinian charity organisations.

"We view the American measure against Dr. Abu Marzouk as an aggressive action against human rights and an aggression on the Palestinian people and their rights as well as a hostile act directed against the Arab and Islamic nations," the message said.

Noting that Dr. Abu Marzouk has lived for 15 years in the United States during which he committed not a single violation against American rules, the message said that Dr. Abu Marzouk was only practising legitimate political activity which is allowed under international law.

"We demand that you immediately release Dr. Abu Marzouk and put an end to his ordeal and that of his family, and we consider his continued detention or his extradition to the Zionist enemy as a serious issue which is bound to increase Arab and Muslims wrath against the United States which in turn will adversely affect bilateral relations and increase tension.

Cellular telephone service to start this month

By Marian Nimry
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Cellular telephone services will be available to the public as of Sept. 23, when Fastlink, better known as the Jordan Mobile Telephone Services (JMTS), a privately owned shareholding company, puts the service into operation.

In a consortium with Motorola, an American company, JMTS was able to secure a five-year exclusive contract for cellular telephone services with Jordan's Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), thus preventing any other company from entering the same market until Oct. 30, 1999.

Upon the signing of the contract on October 30, 1994, JMTS paid to the state-owned TCC JD7 million in licensing fees.

This is the first licence awarded for mobile telephone systems since the law on communications was amended in May 1993 to allow the private sector to enter the field of secondary services (cellular telephones and paging systems).

Upon the start of the service, another JD14.84 million will be due to the TCC in return for the transfer of the car telephone system and its 1,500 subscribers.

The TCC will also receive 20 per cent annual revenue sharing for four years (the first year will be exempt).

If the JMTS's income is

less than 20 per cent, then the company has to pay a guaranteed revenue sharing (minimum guaranteed sum of money) of JD4.6 million for the second year, JD4.9 million for the third year, JD6 million for the fourth year, and JD8.4 million for the fifth year.

Twenty three Motorola base stations are spread over Jordan, five of which are over the areas of Madaba, Salt and Zarqa and the rest are spread over the greater Amman area, said Sami Sabat, field manager at Fastlink.

These stations each work as overlapping cells and work together as one to provide coverage for over 95 per cent of the populated areas in Jordan, according to Mr. Sabat.

Digitised systems send the voice in digital packets and are transmitted faster, clearer, and more accurately than the outdated analogue systems, he said.

According to Jamal Yassin, director of sales and marketing at Fastlink, the cellular system that will be utilised in Jordan is the digital Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) system as opposed to other analogue systems still in use in some parts of the world, mainly in North America, Mexico, Israel and Japan.

All GSM telephones are compatible with international GSM specifications and

can work in Jordan no matter where they were purchased from," said Mr. Yassin. "The difference is only in the make."

A wide range of top-of-the-line cellular telephones are on the market with most of the prices ranging between JD 650 and JD 850, this, after the recent 30 per cent reduction in customs.

The difference is in the quality and in the features that they possess, according to the Fastlink team. Fastlink will first offer the features of call-forwarding (the ability to forward calls to another number whether cellular or land line), call barring (the ability to bar certain incoming and outgoing calls) and call waiting (the ability to answer a second call while talking on their cellular telephone). Other features such as voice messaging will be offered in the future.

Telephone users in Jordan have already started complaining about the high cost of cellular telephones in comparison to international prices.

In a recent article in Business Week, the magazine concluded that because the price of technology is virtually free and competition is very high, the new rules of business have been redefined.

The cost of raw technology is plummeting to zero, according to Business Week. In technologically devel-

oped countries, the value is in the establishment of a long-term relationship with a customer, and service is more valuable than the device itself.

This is one reason for offers seen outside this country where the device is virtually for free.

Also, international prices of cellular telephone services are considerably less because of the growing number of companies offering competitive rates and services.

The prices per minute in Jordan depend on the time the call was made (Peak or Off-peak), and the device used to make the call (mobile or land telephone).

There are two time periods in which to call: peak hours (8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) Saturday through Thursday and off-peak hours (8:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.) Saturday through Thursday and all day Friday.

The peak-time charges are mobile-to-land 245 fils/minute and mobile-to-mobile 185 fils/minute where (60 fils of which will go to the TCC).

Off-peak charges are mobile-to-land 140 fils/minute and mobile-to-mobile 100 fils/minute (40 fils of which will go to the TCC).

Only the calling party will be charged for the call.

Prices cannot be raised without the approval of the Council of Ministers, but they can be reduced without

referring to any institution.

International prices will be charged according to the regular TCC rates in addition to a 185 fils/minute peak charge and 100 fils/minute off-peak charge.

"A subscriber can, in the future, go to any country that has a cellular service and with which Fastlink has an international 'roaming' agreement and use the same cellular telephone and the same card purchased in Jordan," Mr. Yassin said.

"This is the concept behind GSM: to globalise the mobile telecommunications infrastructure worldwide so people can travel freely without communication barriers."

When cellular telephones went into use more than a decade ago, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) predicted that by the turn of the century, about 900,000 mobile telephones will be in use in the U.S. alone.

Now the communications giant predicts that by the year 2000 this number will be exceeded 12 times over.

The biggest question haunting cellular telephones is the health issue. Business Week stated that despite the reports suggesting that handheld cellular telephones might be linked to brain cancer, no conclusive evidence connecting radio waves with cancer has been established.

Indonesian team visits JBA

AMMAN (J.T.) — A visiting Indonesian delegation representing science and political research centres in Jakarta said they were keen on cooperation opportunities with the Kingdom.

During a visit to the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Sunday, the visitors heard JBA Deputy Chairman Fakhri Bilbeisi outline the association's activities at the local, regional, and international levels.

Mr. Bilbeisi also briefed the visiting delegation on the areas of investment in Jordan and facilities and incentives for investors from Arab and foreign countries.

Mr. Bilbeisi called on Indonesia to take active part in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference next month and invited Indonesian firms and businesses to invest in the Kingdom.

Meanwhile, the JBA announced that it was preparing for the association's visit to Turkey on Sept. 20 for discussions on promoting trade and economic cooperation.

A JBA statement said that the delegation will represent the Jordanian side to the Jordan-Turkey Business Council's meetings and will review six working papers on industrial and commercial cooperation between Turkey and Jordan as well as regional cooperation in tourism, communications and food industries.

The JBA delegation will also tour several Turkish industrial projects and will invite Turkish businessmen to take part in the MENA conference.

The JBA last year signed an agreement with the Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Council (DIEK) to create the joint council.

6 people die in road accidents around Kingdom

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two people were killed and four were injured Saturday in a road accident on the Amman-Ma'an Highway, police officials said.

The accident, which occurred near Onuzah Bridge, involved a vehicle that was carrying a Saudi Arabian family on their way to Jeddah, officials said.

A police official told the Jordan Times Sunday that the accident was attributed to speeding and dangerous overtaking which caused the car to overturn.

"The driver, wanted to overtake a car and was met head-on with a trailer coming from the other direction," the official said.

The driver, who was killed in the accident, was speeding and tried to avoid the

oncoming trailer. After impact his vehicle rolled over several times, said the official.

The deceased were identified by the authorities as Mohammad Ali, 50, and his daughter Rawiah, 19.

Mr. Ali's wife, who was identified, along with her three children, Ali, Sana' and Hana', aged 15 to 21, were taken to Ma'an government hospital by police.

All four survivors left the hospital Sunday evening after being treated for bruises, a hospital official told the Jordan Times.

Meanwhile, four people were also killed and more than 15 people were injured Saturday in road accidents around the Kingdom, police reports said.

In Amman, a five-year-old child was killed in Naour after being struck by a 27-year-old driver.

The victim was identified by police as Hammam Yassin.

In the Bayader area, a 68-year-old Syrian man died after being run over by a vehicle driven by a 32-year-old man. The deceased was identified by police as Mohammad Shawqi Hammam.

In Zarqa, two people were killed and three were injured in two separate road accidents. The two victims were identified as Khalid Mohammad, 27, and Subhi S. Subhi, 23.

The third accident took place on the Amman-Ma'an Highway and involved a bus which lost control and rolled over. Four people were injured as a result.

In Irbid, 11 people were injured in two separate road accidents which involved two public buses and two other passenger cars.

NAF bloc nominates Majali as speaker

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Action Front (NAF), an independent parliamentary bloc, Sunday nominated First Deputy Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Hadi Al Majali for Speaker when the House convenes in the next regular session, according to NAF spokesman Abdul Majid Al Aqtash.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

"Carminal," at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

"A closer view of Sicily," by Umberto Eco at the Friends of Archaeology at 6:30 p.m.

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES

FILM

"Miro," at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Works of graphic art by several artists and students at the South Gallery.

Photography of Jordan, "Elements in Harmony" by Hala Hodiab at the Blue

House.

* Display of painted stone and steel, "Embargo Art" by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.

* "Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and "Late Night Scribbles" by Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Ali Bermamet.

* Open Air Sculpture workshop.

* Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Central Gallery.

* 3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi at Library.

EXHIBITIONS

* Abstract art by Iraqi artist Faris

* Ashour at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Photographs on Jordan entitled "Jordan, One of a Kind" by Paula Williams-Brown and illustrations and water colours by Jordanian artist Ramzi El-Sayyed at The Gallery, main lobby of Jordan InterContinental Hotel, 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. except Fridays).

* Arabic calligraphy at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

* Works by Mohammad Ali Shakir at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

* Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman.



TRYING THEM ON FOR SIZE: Shoe salesmen and potential customers brave the mid-day sun to transact a comfortable sale (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

MQM strike brings Karachi to a halt

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — An anti-government strike by the militant Mohajir Qawmi Movement (MQM) paralysed the Pakistan port city of Karachi Sunday and police said gunmen killed one man.

Police in armoured vehicles patrolled troubled districts of the city, while mounted police guarded Governor House and the Sindh Provincial Assembly, witnesses said.

Unidentified gunmen killed a 25-year-old man, Abdul Majid, in Malir, in district east and five people were wounded by gunmen enforcing the strike in Liaquatabad in district central, police said.

On Saturday, six people were killed and 12 vehicles burned.

Shopping centres and business houses were closed Sunday. Port activity was slow, public transport stayed off the streets and most of Karachi's estimated 12 million people stayed at home.

The Karachi Stock Exchange was closed due to the death of one of its members. Banks shut their main doors, but witnesses said some were doing back-door business in safer areas.

More than a dozen strike days have disrupted business in Pakistan's commercial capital this year, causing economic losses that industrialists say are hard to calculate.

The MQM called its latest strike to protest at what it calls police victimisation of its women workers. "Almost daily they (police) arrest, kill and torture our workers. Even our women activists and supporters are not spared," MQM spokesman Shoaib Bukhari said Friday.

The MQM speaks for Urdu-speaking people who migrated from India at partition in 1947 and their descendants, now a majority in the southern port and some other towns in Sindh province.

The government blames the MQM for most of the violence in Karachi, where more than 1,300 people have been killed this year. The MQM blames security agencies for the bloodletting.

The latest strike call followed a round of peace talks between government and MQM negotiators Thursday, at which the two sides agreed to try to calm tensions in Karachi. The negotiators are due to meet again in Islamabad Wednesday.

The MQM has threatened to call an indefinite strike if any of its activists are harmed during Sunday's protest.

"If the strike continues beyond Sunday, we will not be able to go to Islamabad as we cannot violate party discipline," Ajmal Dehlavi, chief negotiator for the MQM, told reporters.

Meanwhile a senior Pakistani official blamed India for the strike. "This is a clear proof of foreign interference in

Karachi, particularly by India," Abdullah Shah, chief minister of Sindh province, told the Sindh Provincial Assembly at its opening autumn session. All 26 MQM assembly members stayed away.

Mr. Shah showed MQM posters circulated abroad, and said India was giving the MQM money to unleash propaganda against regional rival Pakistan and to stir up trouble in Karachi.

"The people are not participating in the strike voluntarily. The people are fed up with day-to-day strikes and boycotts," Mr. Shah said, adding that small traders had complained that the stoppages had brought them to "the verge of starvation."

Police said gunmen killed one man and wounded eight people, including two policemen. Four vehicles were set ablaze during the strike. Police in armoured vehicles patrolled trouble spots.

Nepal's Communist government collapses

KATHMANDU (AFP) — Nepal's minority Communist government fell Sunday and the opposition was expected to form a new government within 24 hours, state television and radio reported.

The Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) government lost a vote of confidence in the House of Representatives by 107 votes to 88.

The Nepali Congress, the right wing Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), the small Nepal Sadbhavana Party (NSP) and independents all voted against the 10-month old government.

"It was a peaceful transfer of power by the NCP-UML and the new cabinet headed by (Congress leader) Shree Bahadur Deuba will be sworn Monday," a parliamentary official said.

The vote was held after the Supreme Court ruled last month that King Birendra had been wrong to dissolve parliament and call new elections for November in accordance with a request from Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari, a veteran Communist. Adhikari said before the vote he would resign if defeated.

The Communists were the largest single party after elections last November but with 88 seats in the 205-member House could only pass legislation with opposition backing.

"Today's successful democratic transfer of power has further consolidated Nepal's parliamentary process," Speaker Ram Chandra Paudyal said after announcing the result.

On Sunday evening he was scheduled to write to the king to tell him formally of the NCP-UML's defeat.

The parliamentary vote had been scheduled for Saturday but was postponed a day after the NCP-UML asked that Mr. Adhikari be allowed more time to prepare his defence.

He has been in hospital after breaking his shoulder in a helicopter crash last month and his speech was broadcast live on state radio and television from his hospital bed Sunday afternoon.

"The NCP-UML government has never done anything that diminished the dignity of parliament — it is surprising that some people are saying the government has weakened the legislature," Mr. Adhikari said.

"That people used to tyrannise seek to teach democracy is ridiculous," he added.

The Supreme Court on Aug. 28 ruled King Birendra's dissolution of parliament in June was unconstitutional and reinstated the House.

Balladur group seeks comeback in French elections

PARIS (R) — Four ex-cabinet ministers, who backed former Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's failed presidential bid, emerged from a political limbo Sunday to contest French parliamentary by-elections.

Seven by-elections, to be followed by four more next Sunday, heralded a return of the "balladurians" to the limelight after more than four months of cautious silence.

Mr. Balladur himself is to stand next Sunday, his feud with fellow-Gaullist President Jacques Chirac all but buried.

Political analysts say the by-elections may gauge popular discontent over Mr. Chirac's decision to resume nuclear tests and impatience with progress in fighting unemployment.

Mr. Balladur's bruising challenge to Chirac crumbled in last April's presidential election first round, stunning his supporters. Mr. Chirac went on to defeat Socialist Lionel Jospin in May to win the Elysee Palace.

Gaullist Prime Minister Alain Juppe retained a handful of Balladur backers in his cabinet, but most were thrown into the political wilderness.

Knives drawn against them were blunted as Mr. Juppe, needing solid support from the ruling Gaullist-centrist majority in the face of growing criticism, made open overtures to the Balladurians.

Three of Mr. Balladur's former ministers, including ex-Justice Minister Pierre

Mehaignerie, have already regained their National Assembly seat in by-elections last June. Under French regulations, cabinet ministers have to relinquish their seat in parliament.

Running to rejoin the National Assembly Sunday were former Defence Minister Francois Leotard, ex-European Affairs Minister Alain Lamassoure, ex-Trade and Industry Minister Jose Rossi and ex-Civil Service Minister Andre Rossinot — all centrists.

Also standing was Gaullist ex-Sports minister Michele Alliot-Marie, a late Chirac backer.

All looked certain to be elected as the seven constituencies at stake are conservative strongholds. But large numbers of contenders were likely to split the vote and deprive them of the 50 per cent majority needed to avoid going on to a second round next Sunday.

An opinion poll published Sunday in the weekly Journal Du Dimanche said a majority of voters thought the government was slow in introducing reforms.

Paradoxically, 59 per cent believed Mr. Juppe's policies were little different from Mr. Balladur's and 53 per cent said Mr. Balladur's rule was rather positive.

Mr. Balladur will stand in Paris next Sunday in one of four by-elections also featuring three former members of his cabinet, including ex-Communication Minister Nicolas Sarkozy who was his campaign spokesman and most fervent backer.

Haitian sees stability after U.N. leaves

WASHINGTON (AP) — Haiti's prime minister said he is confident his country's fledgling democracy will be able to survive next February's scheduled departure of U.N. peace-keeping troops.

"For the moment, I believe it is quite feasible," said Prime Minister Smarck Michel, in Washington for meetings with Vice President Al Gore and other senior officials.

By the time the 6,000 U.N. peacekeepers leave, Mr. Michel said, 4,000 Haitian policemen will have been trained, the judicial system will be working better and there will be a measure of economic recovery.

"For now we are making sure that we are putting in place everything necessary to ensure that when they leave in February, the environment stays secure and stable," Mr. Michel told

reporters. Among U.S. officials, opinion on the post-February period seems divided. Some embrace Mr. Michel's optimism, but others warn that anti-democratic forces will hold sway again as they have throughout Haiti's 200 years of history.

U.S. investments in Haiti over the past year have created an estimated 10,000 assembly line jobs. Many would-be investors, however, are waiting to see what happens after February to make a commitment.

It was just under a year ago that a U.S.-led multinational force was sent to Haiti to help restore to power deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In March, the multinational force gave way to the U.N. peacekeepers, whose departure is to coincide with the inauguration of a new Haitian president on Feb. 7.

Richard Gere to sell photos to aid Tibet

HOUSTON, Texas (AFP) — Actor Richard Gere is selling a collection of his photographs and exhibiting others to raise money for Tibetan independence. The collection of 22 photos, which includes one of his meditation hut in India, went on display Friday in a month-long exhibit. Each portfolio of 11 photographs to be sold during the exhibit will cost \$12,500. Gere, a practicing Buddhist, said he has no problem dividing his life between India and Hollywood. "People in monasteries deal with the same things people do making a movie," the actor said.

Dole replies to Madonna's shot

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Bob Dole delivered a sharp reply to pop singer Madonna's criticism of his attacks on some rap music and the morality of Hollywood. Appearing on the internationally broadcast MTV Awards ceremony, Madonna singled out the Senate majority leader in her defence of rap. "Bob Dole is sorry he couldn't be here tonight to give out the award for best rap video," she said before presenting the award to Dr. Dre for "Keep Their Heads Ringin'."

"Rap has proven itself a force to be reckoned with. Either listen up, or get the f--- out of the way," Madonna added. Earlier this year, Sen. Dole made a highly publicised speech urging the entertainment industry to stop the "debasement of America" through violence and graphic sex in music and movies. In a speech to the annual convention of the Christian Coalition, Sen. Dole said he has a right to "express outrage" at some forms of pop culture and suggested many artists have thin skins.

"They don't want to be shamed. They don't want to be singled out. They don't want to be named," said the 1996 Republican presidential front-runner. "It's not OK to advocate the attacking of women or police officers, as do the lyrics of some rap songs. I may not be an authority on pop culture ... I do know the difference between freedom and license, between the artistic and the obscene," Sen. Dole added.

Old auto yields surprise - stash of drugs

SAN LUIS OBISPO, California (AP) — The old van came with a stash of hash. A 1976 Mercedes Benz camper that Emerson Hunt had admired ever since his father bought it four years ago had a feature he knew nothing about - 33 pounds of hashish. "One of the roof panels had always hung down and bothered me," said Hunt, who was given the van last Christmas. "So my father-in-law unscrewed the headliner and a big weight fell on our heads." It was one end of a plastic bundle. All 22 drug packets were turned over to police who believe it probably was stashed in the van in the mid-1970s. Hunt's father bought the camper in Fresno from a farm implements dealer who got it as payment for a bad debt. Who hid the hashish remains a mystery. "I'm just very grateful we found it while we were refurbishing," Hunt said. "If we had gone on a trip and crossed a border and had a drug-sniffing dog find it, it could have been a very embarrassing — if not treacherous — situation trying to talk yourself out of that one."

Zhirkovsky to porn star: "Let's make babies"

MOSCOW (AFP) — Outrageous Russian rightwinger Vladimir Zhirkovsky likes Italian porn star La Ciccolina so much that when they met at an exclusive Moscow night club he suggested having a child. "We get on so well, perhaps we could have a child," Mr. Zhirkovsky told the leggy porno veteran and former Italian parliamentary deputy at Moscow's pricey Up And Down club late Saturday. "I agree," laughed La Ciccolina.

China tries science to tackle superstition

BEIJING (R) — China co-opted science Sunday as a weapon in a battle to dampen wide superstition that an imminent leap month in its lunar calendar heralds death, disaster — or at the very least a killer earthquake.

"According to history, there is no certain link between a leap eighth month and natural disasters," Sunday's Guangming Daily, official newspaper of China's intellectuals, quoted a bevy of leading meteorologists and scientists as saying.

The leap month, which falls at random under China's complicated and ancient lunar calendar, on this occasion starts on Sept. 25 and runs until Oct. 23.

Scientist Yang Yiwen told the Guangming Daily that after this year the next so-called leap eighth month is not due for half a century.

The newspaper's put-down defies thousands of years of Chinese superstition, coupled this time with popular anxiety 19 years after an earthquake killed 240,000 people in northern China in the middle of the previous leap eighth month.

"Leap seventh but not leap eighth, leap eighth then blood will be shed," runs a traditional saying that is spreading fear through both rural and urban China.

There are 12 months of 29 or 30 days each in China's lunar year requiring

occasional leap months at different times of the year to keep the sequence straight.

Guangming Daily made no attempt to calm another great, unpublished — but privately off-discussed — fear this year.

It is that 91-year-old paramount leader Deng Xiaoping will die in the year of the leap eighth month — just like his predecessor Mao Tse-Tung, who died in 1976, the last time a leap eighth month happened in the lunar calendar.

Even before this year's leap month started some Chinese were taking precautions. Weeks after an earthquake in July killed 13 people

in northwestern Gansu province, some residents of the capital, Lanzhou, chose to sleep outdoors fearing more tremors were inevitable in a year of a leap eighth month, visitors said.

Guangming Daily's large, boxed reassurance to the public, cited scientific data to prove earthquakes were no more likely in a leap eighth month than in any other year.

From 1841 to 1980, China recorded 10 earthquakes measuring more than 8 on the Richter Scale, large enough to cause a major disaster, but none occurred in any of the five leap eighth months that fell in those 139 years, the newspaper said.

Big question mark hangs over Simpson trial

LOS ANGELES (R) — A huge question mark hung over the O.J. Simpson double murder trial Sunday as his defence team plotted its strategy following a ruling by an appeals court that may have derailed its plan to rest Simpson's case Monday.

Simpson's high-priced lawyers considered their next move after a California Appeals Court robbed them of the grand climax to their case.

Among the options being considered is another look at the possibility of allowing Simpson to testify in his own defence, according to the Cable News Network.

"Defense lawyers have told CNN they are reconsidering putting Simpson on the stand," the network reported early Sunday.

The appellate court ruled last week that Judge Lance

Ito, the man in charge of the American football legend's double murder trial, could not instruct the jury that former detective Mark Fuhrman, a key prosecution witness, would not be available for further testimony and that the panel could consider that factor in assessing Fuhrman's credibility.

Outside of the jury's presence, Mr. Fuhrman Wednesday had invoked his constitutional right not to testify on the grounds that he might incriminate himself.

Mr. Fuhrman told the jury earlier in the trial that he had found a bloody glove on Simpson's estate, allegedly linking the football hero to the killings of his ex-wife and a friend.

Under intense cross-examination by famed defence attorney F. Lee Bailey, Mr.

Fuhrman also swore under oath that he had not used the word "nigger" in the past 10 years.

But recordings made by an aspiring screenwriter and testimony by other witnesses showed he used the term frequently between 1985 and 1994.

Simpson, who found later fame as a sportscaster and actor, pleaded innocent to the June 12, 1994, murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

His defence team had hoped to wrap up the case Monday, with the lead defence attorney dramatically announcing, "the defence rests," but without Judge Ito casting aspersions on Mr. Fuhrman's credibility as a grand finale to the defence case, Simpson's lawyers

indicated they were reluctant to end with a whimper instead of a bang.

Legal analysts said Simpson's defence had three options, other than putting Simpson on the stand to take the appellate court decision on the jury instruction to the California Supreme Court in the hope of having it overturned to seek immunity from prosecution for Mr. Fuhrman — who faces possible charges of perjury — in return for his testimony, or to bring on more witnesses.

Judge Ito had promised the jury the trial would move into its rebuttal phase — in which both sides attempt to contradict the testimony of the other side's witnesses — on Monday, but the decision of the appellate court put the judge's promise in jeopardy.

Vietnamese director wins Venice Golden Lion

VENICE, Italy (R) — Vietnamese director Tran Anh Hung won the Golden Lion for the best film at the

Venice Film Festival Saturday for Cyclo, the story of a young man drawn inexorably to violence in Ho Chi

Minh City. The award for the 33-year-old Paris-based Tran kept him on a winning streak after his last film The Scent of Green Papaya won the Camera D'Or in Cannes in 1993 for best debut movie and was nominated for the best foreign film Oscar.

The ceremony was briefly disrupted by a small group of Italian demonstrators who ran across the stage with a banner protesting against French nuclear tests.

The protestors were bundled off by security guards but their action won the biggest standing ovation of the night from the celebrity audience in the Palazzo Del Cinema.

Germany's Goetz George won the best actor award for his chilling performance in Ronald Karmakar's film "Der Totmacher" (The Deathmaker), in which he plays a 1920s serial killer who murdered and dismembered 24 young men.

The prize for best actress was shared by Sandrine Bonnaire and Isabelle Huppert, co-stars of French veteran Claude Chabrol's "La Ceremonie" (The Ceremony).

Portuguese director Joao

Cesar Montero had been tipped to win the top prize for "A Comedia Di Deus" (God's Comedy) and seemed to think the Lion should have been his when he collected his special jury prize.

Dressed all in white in imitation of the hero of his film, a sex-mad ice-cream seller, Montero walked straight past the compères and made for the coveted Golden Lion instead.

Italian director Giuseppe Tornatore, who endured isolated car-calls from unhappy critics in the audience, also won a special jury prize for "L'Uomo Delle Stelle" (Starman).

Prizes for best performance in a supporting role went to Ian Hart for Thaddeus O'Sullivan's "Nothing Personal" and to Isabella Ferreri for her part in Ettore Scola's "Romanzo Di Un Giovane Povero" (The Story Of A Young Pauper).

British Director Kenneth Branagh won a gold medal for his low-budget black-and-white comedy In The Bleak Midwinter.

The other medal winners were Japan's Hirokazu Koreeda for "Maborosi No Hikari" (Maborosi Illusion)

and Iranian director Abolfazl Jalili for "Det, Yani Dokhtar" (Det Means Girl). Cyclo tells the story of an idealistic young pedal-cab driver whom fate and the people around him conspire to corrupt.

When the pedal-cab he rents to earn his living is stolen, he is forced to resort to petty crime to pay back the owner. Easy money and the impunity of his actions give him a feeling of power that leads him into a spiral of violence.

"When I arrived in Ho Chi Minh City in 1991 to scout the location (Green Papaya), I was overwhelmed by a purely physical feeling — of the rhythm emanating from the city, of the incredible weariness of its inhabitants — a sort of exhaustion," the director said.

"I wanted to show all this violence with great tenderness," he said in the programme for the film.

Festival boss Gillo Pontecorvo announced Friday career awards for American filmmakers Woody Allen and Martin Scorsese, French director Alain Resnais and five Italian cinema greats including actors Alberto Sordi and Monica Vitti.



French actresses Sandrine Bonnaire (left) and Isabelle Huppert hold their award at the Venice Film Festival (AFP photo)



Vietnamese director Tran Anh Hung shows off his Golden Lion Award received at the Venice Film Festival (AFP photo)

Allen did not appear at the festival but Scorsese arrived Saturday to pick up the award.

"Really, I think Italian cinema is a great gift to all the world," Scorsese told the delighted audience.

ON, Texas (APF)
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World News

Jordan Times, September 11, 1995 5



A man speaks with a relative while he is being kept in a 'filtration camp' for Chechen prisoners and guarded by two armed Russian soldiers in a suburb of Grozny (AFP photo)

3 Russians killed by Chechen attacks — army

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A Russian tank commander was killed in a grenade attack by Chechen fighters near the village of Kurshaloy, the Interfax News Agency reported Sunday citing military sources.

Another member of the tank crew is missing and was probably taken prisoner by rebels in the attack 20 kilometres west of the capital Grozny, Russian military headquarters said.

The Russian army said its positions came under 23 separate attacks overnight to Sunday in which two soldiers were killed and three wounded.

Russian forces accuse the Chechens nearly every morning of carrying out such attacks despite a ceasefire agreed by the two sides in late June, while Chechen fighters claim they suffer air and artillery attacks.

A Russian soldier shot a teenager to death in Grozny Friday, sparking an anti-Russian rally by hundreds of angry Chechens, news reports said.

The Russian military sent a dozen armoured personnel carriers to the scene and reportedly ordered the crowd to leave, threatening that otherwise force would be used.

The commander of the Russian military checkpoint where the shooting of 17-year-old Zaurbek Unzyev took place blamed it on "careless handling of weapons," the commander did not give his name, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

ITAR-TASS later said the Russians were offering two other accounts of the shooting — that the youth insulted Russian troops, and that a Chechen sniper had fired on the checkpoint from a nearby destroyed building.

More than 1,000 Grozny residents rallied at the scene, Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff for Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, told the crowd an investigation would be launched and the culprits would be punished, the Interfax News Agency reported.

Several hundred people later demonstrated outside the headquarters of the Russian-backed provisional government, where they waved green Islamic flags, chanted "Allah Akbar" (God is Great) and demanded Russia's withdrawal from Grozny.

Interfax said a police colonel ordered the crowd to disperse. About a dozen APCs and 200 police were reported to be at the scene.

Thousands of people have died since Russia sent troops into Chechnya last December to crush its self-proclaimed independence and oust the Dudayev government.

Russian troops have held control of Grozny and most of the southern breakaway republic for several months, but clashes still occur regularly with rebel fighters. A July 30 military pact mandating Chechen disarmament and the start of Russian withdrawal has been largely ineffective.

Meanwhile, a Russian offi-

cial offered a major concession to Mr. Dudayev Friday, saying the rebel president — who is under a criminal investigation and has remained in hiding for months — might participate in the planned leadership elections in Chechnya.

"Dudayev is an outlaw, but he still has a possibility to legitimise himself," ITAR-TASS quoted Valery Manilov, deputy secretary of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's powerful Security Council, as saying.

"If he dramatically changes his position, repents and obtains amnesty, he will be entitled to participate in the elections, as any Russian citizen," Mr. Manilov said.

Mr. Dudayev has refused to recognise Russian sovereignty over Chechnya in spite of his war losses. He says he is ready to step down, but stresses that such a move would make him even more dangerous for Moscow.

EU-Vatican row holds up women's conference

BEIJING (R) — Delegates at the World Women's Conference were halfway to agreeing on a final declaration Sunday but a feud between the European Union (EU) and Vatican over family rights threatened to slow negotiations.

Conference officials admitted that with the declaration due to be announced Thursday, many disputes still had to be resolved between religious groups and feminists.

"There is still a lot of work to be done. I must admit in terms of negotiation of language," said Theresa Gastaut, a spokeswoman for the fourth World Conference on Women.

The thorniest issue was Vatican unhappiness at what it said was wording which sought to roll back parental rights, belittle motherhood and undermine religious faith.

The Vatican's sharp public criticism of the EU stance on the family ended a soft approach Pope John Paul's

delegation adopted for the first six days of a conference meant to chart a blueprint for sexual equality in the next 10 years.

The controversial wording, enclosed in so-called "holy brackets", is in the declaration's health section dealing with adolescents, couples deciding the number and spacing of children, and abortion, including a call to governments not to punish women who have an illegal abortion.

The draft phrasing drew the wrath of the Vatican, one of the most influential participants in its own right as well as through voting proxies such as Malta and Ecuador.

The platform for action on the negotiating table retreated from existing human-rights documents that safeguarded these areas, Vatican spokesman Joaquim Navarro-Valls said Saturday.

"At Beijing, the draft document casts marriage and the family negatively as impediments to women's

self-realisation," a Vatican statement said.

Worse, he said, there were moves to replace "family" in the document with "families". The plural form is to accommodate non-traditional families including single-parent, polygamous families and units headed by same-sex partners.

Card. Navarro-Valls said the position on these issues taken by EU negotiators ran directly counter to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

EU spokeswoman Cristina Alberdi of Spain dismissed the charges as simply incorrect and said her delegation would not back down.

The Vatican had surprised many delegates in Beijing by calling a truce in the battle over language in the document concerned with contraception and abortion.

At the last big U.N. gathering, in Cairo last year on population issues, the Vatican dug in its heels on the issue.

But the Holy See appears

to have now decided to draw a line in the sand, while EU delegates say Cairo was a compromise and the Beijing declaration must reflect women's sexual rights and not just their reproductive rights.

Conference spokeswoman Gastaut said with five days to go, half the 430 bracketed items have been solved. The sticking points were primarily over whether modern views of women's rights took precedence over traditional religious customs.

Ms. Gastaut said she was confident compromises would be reached in time because all delegates wanted to move on from debate to getting governments to take concrete action.

"What delegates want is a text which is forward looking enough but not such a utopia that it will not be workable and implementable in five years," she said. "We want to move from words to actions."

Hurricane Luis brings heavy swells as it moves north

MIAMI (R) — Hurricane Luis sent heavy swells along the U.S. eastern seaboard and tropical storm winds to Bermuda Saturday as it raced north in the Atlantic, far from a string of Caribbean islands struggling to cope with its destructive passage.

The worst storm of the season killed at least 15 people and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage during its rampage Tuesday through the tiny islands of the northeastern Caribbean, doing its worst destruction on the tourist playgrounds of St. Martin and Antigua.

Officials said the devastation on St. Martin — the hardest hit of the lesser Antilles Islands — was worse than expected and the death toll would probably climb as relief workers reached stricken mountain areas and searched boats sunk or crushed in Simpson's Bay, a renowned Caribbean hurricane shelter for yachts.

"The situation at this moment is worse than we expected. We still have not re-established electricity or water," said Edward Heerengreen, a spokesman for the government of the Netherlands Antilles in Curacao.

The death toll can go higher. We expect it to go higher," he said. "There are some people dead because they were on their boats and their boats sunk."

Radio reports from the Dutch-French island said as many as 37 people died when Luis destroyed a prison, the Caribbean News agency said. But Mr. Heerengreen said the report was untrue.

At 11 p.m. EDT Saturday, Luis was 395 kilometres north-northwest of Bermuda moving northeast at 40 kph. It was expected to pick up additional forward speed in the next 24 hours.

Luis had maximum winds of about 160 kph and was expected to weaken further during its trek north. At its peak, top sustained winds were 225 kph.

A tropical storm warning was in effect for Bermuda. Gusts up to 46.7 kph were measured as the storm passed the British colony to the west, forecasters at the National Hurricane Centre said. Gale warnings were issued for the east coast of Nova Scotia.

Luis was creating unusually heavy surf conditions along the U.S. east coast from Florida to southern New England.

Colombia prosecutor sees winds of change

BOGOTA (R) — The official investigating alleged drug-related contributions to President Ernesto Samper's 1994 election campaign says winds of change are sweeping away the corruption and cynicism that have helped cripple Colombia's judicial system in the past.

The drug barons who once threatened to rule Colombia as if it were their personal fiefdom are either in jail or on the run, he says — "social pariahs" in a land where many once looked up to them, if more out of fear than respect.

But the official, Prosecutor-General Alfonso Valdiveaso, conceded in an interview with Reuters Television that Colombia — branded a "narco-democracy" by a disgruntled U.S. drug agent who resigned and left here in disgust in September, 1994 — has done too little to fight its infamous drug lords.

And while its recent efforts have earned the country high marks, he noted that they came too late for the hundreds of policemen, judges, journalists and

politicians killed in drug-related violence over the past 20 years.

"If Colombia had fought drug trafficking, if we had done battle against drug traffickers like we should have, we probably would have saved many of those lives," Mr. Valdiveaso said. "We haven't done enough."

The 45-year-old prosecutor, a soft-spoken man who stands barely five feet (1.5 metres) tall, was shown in a recent Gallup poll to be one of most popular political figures in Colombia. That approval rating is proof, he said, of the broad-based support behind his effort "to confront the ties between Colombian society and drug trafficking and cut them."

Mr. Valdiveaso, appointed prosecutor last March for a one-year term, declines to publicly discuss details of the case against Mr. Samper's campaign aides, who have been accused of accepting millions of dollars from the Cali drug cartel.

He said he suspects drug money has infiltrated more than one political campaign in Colombia, however, since

"political activity is undoubtedly one of the most attractive areas" for drug lords to invest in.

As such, as many Colombians see it, the crimes Mr. Samper's campaign is accused of are probably nothing new and might even have been dismissed as politics as usual in the past.

Even U.S. State Department officials, who accused Mr. Samper of accepting "dirty" campaign money at a meeting in New York in June, 1994, said they would be willing to forget about the matter if his administration hit the Cali drug lords where it hurt, a government source told Reuters last week.

But Mr. Valdiveaso said "an attitude of complacency in the face of drug trafficking 20 years ago is today an attitude of open rejection."

Mr. Samper has insisted that he will serve out his full term, which ends in three years. But his possible resignation has become a subject of open debate among diplomats and political commentators here.

Last-minute entry forces vote for leader of Japan's biggest party

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's biggest political party faced a leadership election after a late challenger came forward Sunday, but both candidates focussed more on forming a future government without Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's Socialist Party than on fighting each other.

Former Posts Minister Junichiro Koizumi announced his challenge at the last minute against Trade minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, established favourite for the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Many here saw Mr. Koizumi's move as a token gesture rather than the start of a tough campaign.

The conservative LDP dominates the three-party ruling coalition but yielded the top government post to the minority Socialists when the government was formed last year.

"We will strive to take over the reins of government through the next general elections," Mr. Hashimoto told a joint news conference with Mr. Koizumi after the deadline passed early Sunday for candidacies in the Sept. 22 leadership poll.

"But, in the process, we will try to weave LDP policies into the framework of the coalition," said the trade minister, who has gained a reputation as a tough negotiator in trade talks with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor.

Mr. Koizumi's policy paper was more blunt. It declared that "the time has

come for the LDP to liquidate the coalition" although it conceded that the Murayama government had produced "more results than expected."

On relations with the Socialists, Mr. Koizumi told the press conference: "If we fail to come to terms on administrative reform, economic measures and other issues, we won't hesitate to part company."

The coalition, which also includes a small group headed by Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, has shown broad internal differences over a range of issues including tax, defence and Japan's responsibility for events before and during World War II.

Mr. Murayama's Social Democratic Party has meanwhile been seeking to set up a new party with liberals to cope with an oft predicted political realignment and calls for a snap general election before the current lower house term ends in mid-1997.

Mr. Koizumi's bid was widely seen as a token to demonstrate "openness" in the faction-ridden LDP. Mr. Hashimoto is reported to have mustered support from more than half the 313 LDP legislators, who in the party's weighted voting system have a numerically bigger say than LDP members across the country.

At a rally Sunday to launch the Hashimoto campaign, some 220 LDP deputies attended in person or sent representatives.

The main opposition Shinshito (New Frontier Party), which made impressive gains in Senate elections in July, dismissed the LDP poll as "choreographed" and, as a party official told Jiji Press, "it lacks excitement."

Mr. Hashimoto appeared certain to take over when incumbent LDP leader Yohei Kono, the foreign minister, gave up his bid for a second two-year term in late August after assessing the strength of party support for the trade chief.

Mr. Hashimoto, 58, has served in various senior cabinet and party executive posts, with backing from the LDP's mainstream faction which has been tarnished by a series of corruption scandals.

Mr. Koizumi, 53, who belongs to an LDP faction loyal to party Secretary General Hiroshi Mituzuka, had struggled hard overnight to secure the endorsement of 30 LDP deputies, a requirement for candidacy.

He faced strong opposition from within and outside the party for his drive to privatise the post office business including its big savings bank.

Mr. Koizumi said over the weekend the LDP should not depend on one faction alone. "through debate with Mr. Hashimoto, we can demonstrate the LDP's depth."

The LDP presidency was coupled automatically with the premiership when the LDP ruled alone for 38 years until 1993, when it lost a general election.

Kashmir rebels extend deadline, talks continue

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Al-Faran guerrillas holding four Westerners hostage in India's troubled Kashmir region extended their deadline indefinitely as Indian officials said Sunday that talks were continuing.

The mysterious Al-Faran militants had said they would kill the four Westerners if India did not announce by Saturday evening its compliance with their demands. The group wants India to release 15 separatists including three Pakistanis.

"Al-Faran has in response to an appeal made by relatives of the hostages reviewed its decision and extended the deadline further," the militant group said in a statement delivered to the Urdu-language Al-Safa newspaper.

"We had contact last night. We are in contact. They are responding," a spokesman for the government of the

state of Jammu and Kashmir, told Reuters Sunday.

India says it is willing to release Kashmiri prisoners as part of a routine review of their status, but is unwilling to free Pakistanis.

Asked if the hostage situation had improved, the spokesman said, "it is difficult to say. Of course, this (talks) is a positive development in the sense that for two days they had given an ultimatum and (later) lifted the ultimatum and held talks."

Al-Faran did not fix a new time or date after its deadline expired Saturday evening, local time.

It was the fourth deadline since the hostage crisis began two months ago, when the captives were picked up while on trekking holidays in the Himalayan Mountains of the state, rocked by five years of a Muslim rebellion against New Delhi.

"India will be responsible for their killing. Otherwise, India should accede to our demands without further delay," Al-Faran said in Saturday's statement, obtained by Reuters.

Americans Don Hutchings, Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan and German Dirk Hasert were abducted along with two others, Norwegian Hans Christian Ostroe was found beheaded on Aug. 13, American John Childs escaped to safety immediately after the abduction.

India says it does not want to risk harming the hostages through a rescue operation. The Economic Times daily said Sunday the army was ready to launch a rescue operation, adding that the Al-Faran guerrillas had been closely watched by soldiers since Aug. 23.

The newspaper said the guerrillas, with the hostages in tow, were moving at a

reckless pace, changing locations every day in the unfriendly Himalayan terrain.

But the state government spokesman denied the report. "There is no operation launched or planned," he told Reuters.

Tension mounted in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, as Mushaq Ali, a cameraman working for Asian News International, died three days after he opened a parcel bomb apparently aimed at his friend and fellow photographer Yusuf Jameel. Mr. Jameel covers Kashmir for the British Broadcasting Corporation and Reuters.

A three-day general strike in the Kashmir Valley called by the multi-party Hurriyat (Freedom) Group of separatists went into the second day in protest against the blast at Mr. Jameel's office.

Norway local vote tests pro-EU premier's strength

OSLO (R) — Norwegians began voting Sunday in two-day local elections seen as a barometer of the pro-EU government's popularity following the country's rejection 10 months ago of European Union (EU) membership.

Analysts also regard the local polls as a test of the labour government's immigration policies, criticised as too lax by the right-wing, anti-immigrant Progress Party.

Voting opened in some districts, with a full, nationwide round of balloting set for Monday. Provisional returns are expected late Monday in Norway's third vote in as many years.

Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland was returned to power in the 1993 general election only to be handed a humiliating defeat when Norwegians voted against joining the EU in the referendum last November.

Ms. Brundtland put her prestige on the line in the emotional campaign and her minority government has

since fought a rear-guard battle to shore up Norwegian interests in Brussels through the European Economic Area agreement.

Labour slipped in opinion polls leading up to the referendum, but has since recovered mainly because of the respect enjoyed by 56-year-old Brundtland among voters, according to analysts.

The oil-rich country's booming economy also leaves little room for the opposition — a handful of non-Socialist and Socialist parties that lack a joint platform.

But Progress Party leader Carl I. Hagen has run an efficient local election campaign hammering away on the immigrant issue, which has gained growing attention although Norway has one of the most homogeneous populations in Europe.

Only 164,030 foreigners, including some 50,000 Asians, Africans and other non-European ethnic groups, live in the sparsely populated Scandinavian state of 4.3 million.

Sinn Fein's Adams heads to U.S. amid deadlock

DUBLIN (R) — Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, head of the IRA's political wing, visits the United States Monday for talks that Irish officials hope might break a stalemate in the Northern Ireland peace process.

Mr. Adams' visit takes place amid the worst crisis in a joint Anglo-Irish drive for a settlement has known since an IRA ceasefire brought peace to the province one year ago.

The Sinn Fein chief is expected to meet President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, Anthony Lake, for talks on kickstarting peace moves paralysed by a complex dispute over if, when and how the Irish Republican Army (IRA) disarms.

Mr. Adams signalled a change in thinking in remarks published in the New York Times at the weekend. He said he might be willing to accept an international panel to study the disarming deadlock.

But Sinn Fein sources said there would be no change in the party's steadfast refusal

to agree to an IRA disarming as a precondition for Britain and Ireland convening all-party talks to find a lasting Northern Ireland settlement.

Irish officials say Sinn Fein's refusal to work with such a panel was a key reason behind Dublin's decision last Tuesday to cancel summit talks with British Prime Minister John Major — talks that were supposed to revive the peace process.

They said Mr. Adams believed the commission might be a trap that would commit the IRA to surrendering the arms they had used in a 25-year war against British rule to win a place for Sinn Fein at future peace talks.

Mr. Adams' visit to Washington follows a trip there by Britain's main negotiator in the talks, Michael Ancram, who put London's version of events in an effort to secure vital U.S. support for its stance on the arms impasse.

Winning over the Americans could prove crucial.

By Dr. Waleed M. Sa'idi

Jordan Times

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For MENA and beyond

FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN probing the investment climate in Jordan on the eve of the conference on economic development for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in October generally agree that the telecommunications services in this country are nowhere near international standards. While we do not fault any potential investor for wanting to see steps being taken to improve our telecommunications network, we have to acknowledge the fact that the state-owned Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) is trying its best to prepare the necessary groundwork for the MENA summit by taking various stopgap measures to at least facilitate the work of delegates during their stay here. In the long-term, though, the government fully realises that all such remedial steps would not be able to solve problems we face unless and until the private sector is invited to take part or better still undertake a major role in modernising the national telecommunication system. At the present, there are plans to "commercialise" the TCC to meet the pressing demands as a prelude to privatising it altogether. But the hitch here is the decision of the government to retain a controlling interest in the commercialised-then-privatised institution.

Understandably the government is wary of surrendering control over a very important public service sector, especially one that makes money. Besides the bureaucrats are comfortable with the status quo since they are, by nature, resistant to change. But considering the amount of investments, in dollar terms, and the expertise required to do a proper job there is no way that our country can have advanced telecommunications services without free competition on par with other countries with the same experience.

Reconciling the government's vested interest in security and a measured sense of supervision with the need to have free and responsible competition would remain the single most important policy decision that would have to be taken, and soon. Only through a joint effort between the private sector and the government can we hope to strike balance between the two legitimate concerns and translate it into an action plan.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Sunday discussed the controversy that erupted over the enrollment of students at state universities and said that deputies of Parliament were not qualified to discuss the question and make lengthy statements that benefited no one. Tareq Masarweh said that a debate in Parliament over the acceptance of students in higher educational institutions was like treating cancer with Aspirin. He said that this question should be taken up by specialists who can influence the decision makers by their views about what is best for the nation's interests. Citing the examples of Britain, Germany and other countries, where attention is focused on providing students with vocational and technical training, the writer said that Jordan was in dire need for the services of trained people for jobs ranging from agriculture to nursing and mechanical work and this could be done at the numerous vocational centres. The writer said that the armed forces technical schools could help in providing training and the community colleges could be transformed into technical workshops for the same purpose, while the government can determine a fixed number of students who can pursue higher education. The writer said that while other nations adopt practical measures to ensure their progress and prosperity, Jordanian parliamentarians suffice themselves with delivering speeches that do not help to solve the problem and with urging the government to accept more students in the universities which turn out graduates seeking clerical and public administration jobs that are hard to come by in the country.

A WRITER in Al Dustour said that millions of dinars of public funds are wasted each year on the purchase of expensive cars for government use and on salaries paid to their drivers and their maintenance and fuel. These cars benefit only senior officials who more often than not use them for their personal purpose rather than official business, said Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud. Furthermore, the writer said that the government continues to pay transport allowances to those employees who own their cars but ignores the other employees who use public transport. He said that such practice is costing the state JD 10 million annually at a time when the government is facing demands by civil servants for better pay. The writer said that while the government keeps calling on the public officials to economise and save state funds it is allowing fortunes to be wasted without any real benefit for the country.

Human Rights File

Why neglect a major killer?

IT SEEMS that this summer in particular, heart attacks have taken a big toll on the lives of Jordanians of all ages and all walks of life. While the causes for heart attack this year are no different from those of previous years, the rate seems to be on the rise. I tried to get some statistics on this subject from the relevant department but it appears no one is interested in keeping records on the number of people who succumb to this killer. What is worse, there is no one in either the private or public health sector who seems to be targeting this disease, with the exception of the Society Against Smoking under the able and dedicated physician Zuhair Malhas. Few of us are paying any attention to Dr. Malhas or his words of warning.

It is so obvious to even the laymen among us that we have a very serious problem. We also know that Jordanians' style of life, including their eating and smoking habits, is a direct cause for the rising rate in heart attacks. Why the Ministry of Health or the Medical Association is so callous about this killer is anybody's guess. The public at large also takes the blame for appearing to be fatalistic about it. Worse still, some naive people among us console themselves on religious grounds by believing that what's written on our foreheads will happen anyway. Such people have forgotten that Islam, true Islam, calls on all believers to use their minds first and then put their trust in God. *Inqil wa tawakkal*, is such a thought and soul provoking edict in

Islam that seems to be disregarded by so many of us as we go on eating cholesterol-rich foods, such as *mansafs*, and keep on smoking one pack after the other, assuming all along that God will spare us even if we disregard his teachings on proper style of life. Had the opposite been the case, we would not need to give our children periodic inoculation against epidemics as a form of preventive medicine or prescribe traffic rules for people to observe when they drive their cars.

We already have a strong "fatwa" from the Al Azhar in Cairo that cigarettes are among the *muharamat*, forbidden, meaning that true Muslims should not use them. Of course few Muslims, including the most pious among them, are heeding this edict. In this regard, however, we have targeted cigarette smoking and begun the process of attacking the habit. What we have not targeted at all is our eating habits, especially when it comes to rich foods like *mansaf*, *maklobeh* and other meat-based meals. Whenever I inquire about the life-style of any person who died because of a heart attack, I always discern that he or she had been busy railroad-ing himself or herself to death. The situation has turned so grim that I tend to think that deep in our hearts many of us have suicidal tendencies. How else can one explain the wanton indifference to basic medical warnings that have become common household terms

everywhere in the advanced world? It seems to me that the Medical Association as well as the Ministry of Health have become extremely negligent by not addressing this health problem and for not disseminating information about it in a concerted manner. We certainly need a campaign of a sort to caution the public that unless they do something about their life-style, we will and until they do something about their life-style, we will continue to lose people still in their prime of life and deprive families of their loved ones when they are most needed. There is also a clear economic cost to the problem. The cost to the nation of losing young people when they are in their highest productive stages of their lives is staggering. The pain and the suffering caused by the sudden death of people is also something that we can avoid with modest attention to basic health rules.

Why not start dish-ing out basic medical information to the public on television and through daily newspaper telling people what they may eat and what they must avoid as a matter of principle? I believe that when an educational campaign about the dangers of meat and other fatty substances starts, we may save so many lives. Not doing anything about the crisis is tantamount to criminal negligence. All those who are able to address the problem but choose to stay silent should be held accountable. On the top of the list of such responsible people are, of course the Ministry of Health and the Medical Association.

LETTERS

'All lines are busy'

To the Editor:

IN HIS Aug. 31 reply to my letter to the editor (Jordan Times, Aug. 20) Walid Dweik has missed the point.

First, I do not believe the problems I faced while trying to call Jordan were from the U.S. operator, especially since the "all lines are busy" recording was in Arabic.

Second, I do not believe the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) realises the extent to which it is hurting Jordanian business and individuals by not providing sufficient communication lines. Although I cannot give an accurate figure, I am sure the loss of revenue is in the hundreds of millions of dinars per year. This, of course, includes loss of revenue to the Jordanian government.

I realise the TCC has a monopoly on communications in Jordan. However, I do not believe they are acting responsibly. In any Western country, this monopoly would be revoked.

Foreign investors look at several factors, but most importantly, they want a stable economy/currency, and educated population, a fair judicial system and a modern and adequate communications medium.

Jordan fulfills many of the requirements, but improvement is needed in certain areas, especially communications.

Sam Mashni
Houston, TX
USA

Writers have no boundaries

To the Editor:

WRITERS, OUT of all people, have no boundaries to what they can think of and write about. It is a crime to try and pressure a writer to conform to certain principles and ideologies. Therefore, I fully agree with Mr. Hisham Yanis: "No 'Welcome Normalisation' in Israel. JWA still unhappy" (Jordan Times, Sept. 4, 1995) in the position he has taken towards the Jordan Writers Association. Basel Rafailich is wrong to take the position he has taken against Mr. Yanis, and I am surprised by the actions of the JWA.

Marwan M. Attalla
Amman

Blame not the drivers

To the Editor:

I DISAGREE with the solution put forward for solving the motoring crisis by Dr. Majdoubeh (Thursday Aug. 31). I also disagree with him for blaming a majority of the drivers in our community for the motoring crisis.

I believe that drivers are not necessarily "rude, aggressive and reckless," just because they are not driving in the desired manner.

Dr. Majdoubeh alleges that "a significant number of our Jordanian road-users drive rudely and too aggressively," which is unrealistic.

Dr. Majdoubeh's assumption, grounds, and evidence are not based on scientific study. His essay concentrates on allegations that "most Jordanian drivers are impolite, careless, silly and rude." Of course there is an ethical issue behind driving manners but psychological background and social circumstances must be fully taken into consideration.

Drivers throughout the Kingdom suffer from economic burdens. These drivers may have difficulties, pressures, temptations... etc. that beset them while driving. Their driving style may be sometimes either careless, aggressive or absentminded (such assumptions must not be regarded as a phenomenon). Others may act the same depending on their ethical stance towards society.

Another matter is the steady increase in population and the urgent need for more roads and motoring services. In some respects, drivers tend to enforce their own driving laws where there is a lack of proper traffic organisation (i.e. traffic lights, traffic signs, speed limit signs... etc.).

If we intend to overcome problems on the road such as those mentioned by Dr. Majdoubeh, we might want to rely on accident reports and statistics issued by the concerned authorities. Such data may be analytically studied in order to identify and predict future solutions.

Moreover, enforcing law and order in the proper and appropriate way, enhancing public ethical awareness, and establishing research centres to monitor advances are all crucial.

Behind most appeals to motoring morality lies the presumption that we live in a society where the morality of the individual is the key to the morality of society. If some drivers would simply change their moral stance with respect to roads and society and alter their negative behaviour in areas such as the fundamental concepts of motoring rules, all would be well.

What is all too often overlooked in such calls for moral transformation is the central institutional fabric of our society. Institutions simply must play a positive role in enhancing individual awareness.

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M. KAHIL



Dual containment - origins, aims, limits

By Jubin H. Goodarzi

IN RECENT months, a great deal of attention has been focused on both the marked deterioration in U.S.-Iranian relations and America's adamant refusal to ease the sanctions on Iraq. Since coming to office two years ago, the Clinton administration has adopted a new posture in dealing with these two "backlash" states. The administration argues that two of the major challenges to American interests in the Middle East are the simultaneous threats emanating from Iraq and Iran. In response to the perceived danger posed by Baghdad and Tehran, Washington has pursued a "dual containment" strategy towards the two most powerful Gulf states.

The Clinton administration has justified this policy by asserting that, with the resounding defeat of President Saddam Hussein in the second Gulf war and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U.S. now enjoys an unrivalled position in the region and therefore can afford to confront these two "renegade" regimes. With the passing of the bi-polar international system and the destruction of much of the Iranian and Iraqi military arsenals in two consecutive regional conflicts, both of these states have lost much of their power and strategic significance; they can no longer turn to another power to neutralise American dominance in the area.

Despite going to considerable lengths to defend this approach, the reality of the matter is that the Clinton administration's policy to safeguard American interests in the area, and erode the power of Iraq and Iran is a clear indication of the bankruptcy of U.S. foreign policy. Repeated policy setbacks for the U.S. over the past two decades have left Washington with very few cards to play.

Washington's obsession in the 1970s with seeing regional developments primarily through the prism of cold war politics greatly contributed to pursuit of a short-sighted policy towards Iran under the shah. The shah's overthrow prompted the U.S. to bolster a seemingly "new and moderate" Iraq in the 1980s to serve as a bulwark against revolutionary Iran's expansionist tendencies and a guarantor of the status quo in the Gulf. But President Saddam had his own ambitions which ran counter to Western policy, as he eventually demonstrated on

Aug. 2, 1990. In the final analysis, within a period of less than two decades, Washington's efforts to first create a "Pax Iranica" and later replace it with a "Pax Iraqica" came to naught.

Following Clinton's election to the U.S. presidency, the new Democratic administration attempted to reformulate American policy in the Gulf, which was finally enunciated on May 18, 1993 in a speech by the National Security Council's chief Middle East adviser, Martin Indyk, at the Washington Institute for Near Eastern Policy. Since then, various administration officials have tried to justify "dual containment" in historical terms, as a logical progression in the evolution of U.S. policy since the 1971 British withdrawal from the Gulf. They have assiduously defended the new policy by insisting that the old balance of power game, playing off Iran and Iraq against one another, has proved a total failure. From their viewpoint, with the Gulf war coalition still intact, the U.S. needs neither Iraq nor Iran to maintain a favourable balance of power in the area. The U.S. can rely on its regional allies, Egypt, Israel, Turkey and Saudi Arabia to preserve the status quo. In addition, they emphasise that as a consequence of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Gulf Arab states are no longer reluctant to enter into bilateral security arrangements, and allow American forces to use their facilities in the event of the future crisis.

Flaws and contradictions

The fact of the matter is that it is highly improbable that even the sole superpower in the world today can maintain the fragile status quo in this volatile region by ignoring its two key strategic actors. Dual containment is more of a "non-policy" than a policy option, since for the first time in decades the U.S. has very little influence or power — if any — to determine the outcome of events in Iran or Iraq. In reality, it is the adjunct to a Pax Americana which was established in the aftermath of the second Gulf war. Its foundations rest on two pillars: The continued presence of a sizeable American military force in the region, and close cooperation with the Gulf states. The strategy is plagued with numerous flaws and inherent contradictions. The overall approach raises more ques-

tions than adequately addressing key issues and over the long term, will present more problems for U.S. policy in the Gulf.

Dual containment depends to a large extent on America's special relationship with Saudi Arabia — the weakest member of the three-power triad in the Gulf. In addition, none of the other countries in the Middle East which Washington considers to be its close allies — Egypt, Israel and Turkey — are Gulf powers. With respect to the wisdom and utility of maintaining a prominent American military presence in the area, it can be characterised as a double-edged sword at best. While the U.S. force does serve as a deterrent to hostile Iraqi or Iranian actions against their southern neighbours, the ostensible dependence of the Gulf monarchies on a prolonged U.S. military presence could gradually lead to their delegitimisation and loss of credibility in the eyes of the local population, thereby sowing the seeds of political discontent. It should not be forgotten that a major catalyst of demands for change and reform in the Saudi kingdom was the Western presence in 1990-91.

The present U.S.-Iranian confrontation and tensions in the Gulf have fed into the vicious circle whereby Iran obstinately tries to rebuild and expand its conventional and non-conventional military capabilities and the Gulf states, in response, purchase greater quantities of high-tech arms from the West and rely even more on U.S. goodwill. Already, there are indications that these states are being saturated with arms, and murmuring of discontent about Western arms sales can even be heard in official government circles.

Beyond the overall weaknesses in the strategy, dual containment is a recipe for disaster and future instability, particularly in the case of Iraq. The Clinton administration's inflexible position on the sanctions issue has contributed to the steady marginalisation of the middle class — an essential pillar in a healthy and stable Iraqi society. Indeed, the destruction of civil society due to the significant deterioration in social and economic conditions over the past few years will only guarantee further strife and unrest in even a post-Saddam Iraq. Such circumstance will undoubtedly minimise chances for the emergence of a democratic regime in Baghdad.

Outside players

With regard to Iran's recent defence build-up, Washington refuses to acknowledge the link between steady flow of conventional American arms to the Islamic Republic's neighbours and Iranian perceptions that an adequate conventional and non-conventional deterrent needs to be found. Although certain aspects of Iran's rearmament programme cause concern, it should be recognised that the country does have some legitimate security concerns, in light of its experience in the not too distant past.

Even in the sphere of great power rivalries, the competition between the various foreign players is continuing and assuming a new character. Outside actors will continue to vie for influence and expand their political and economic and military relations in the region at the expense of others. Due to the proximity to its borders and the overall importance of the Middle East, Russia and most probably be a key outside player in the future. Already, there are clear signs that Moscow is once again reasserting its political influence and military power in central Asia and the Transcaucasus.

Russian diplomacy is also becoming quite active in the Gulf region. Moreover, while the U.S. is not at present engaged in any substantive dialogue with Iran or Iraq, Moscow enjoys warm relations with Tehran and is poised to reestablish close ties with Baghdad, once the sanctions are lifted. France is also in a similar position cultivating links with Tehran and laying the groundwork for an eventual Franco-Iraqi rapprochement.

Washington's dual containment approach cannot be pursued indefinitely. The Clinton administration's policy is fundamentally flawed, since it fails to take into account that Iran and Iraq will always be major actors in the Gulf due to their capabilities, resources, population and geography. Although most would agree that the policies of Baathist Iraq and the Islamic Republic over the past several years have contributed to regional instability, it must also be recognised that America's Gulf policy over the past quarter century has lacked vision and foresight.

Middle East International

Features

Peace-building is a long, strenuous journey

By Dr. Marwan Muasher

A STOCKTAKING OF what has been achieved since the treaty of peace between Jordan and Israel was signed one year ago shows that although the last year was not void of problems or challenges, the relation is progressing in a healthy manner. Exaggerated expectations on both sides are now giving way to more realistic approaches and attitudes, moving the relationship along a healthier track after an initial period of political and economic visions characterised by romanticism.

Indeed, while the majority of Jordanians and Israelis supported the negotiations leading to the peace treaty as well as the peace treaty itself, they did so out of different needs and with different expectations.

For Israelis, I believe, the main need which the treaty has been successfully able to address is the acceptance of Israel as a member of the neighbourhood, with the promise not only of an end to belligerency, but of normal relations in all aspects. As such, the post-treaty support by the average Israeli has been accompanied by a sense of euphoria, and an urge of immediate, unimpeded normalisation in all the non-political fields. Israelis today are extremely active in trying to initiate economic, cultural and social contacts with their counterparts in Jordan. As far as the average Israeli citizen is concerned, all political problems with Jordan have been resolved with the signing of the treaty, and hence there are no remaining obstacles in the way of full normalisation.

For the average Jordanian, the peace treaty with Israel presented hope of a better future and a better life, but that hope that has been only partially realised. Whereas Madrid presented the same starting point for all Arab parties, the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty was not arrived at — nor is it possible for it to do so — at the same time as agreements on other tracks, particularly on the Palestinian track. Thus, important issues for Jordanians, though not directly being negotiated by Jordan — issues like Jerusalem and refugees for example — have not been resolved yet. Further, expectations of immediate economic improvement, particularly after years of economic slowdown, have not been met. Even tangible benefits agreed to in the treaty, such as water from the Jordan and the Yarmouk rivers, will not be felt by Jordanians before the implementation of projects worth hundreds of millions of dollars — money that Jordan does not have and has difficulty obtaining. In short, the time lag between peace-making and the achievement of prosperity associated with stability, as well as the hitherto unresolved political problems, have prevented many Jordanians from viewing the future with confidence. Their

thinking is overshadowed by present-time difficulties. The reluctance that many Jordanians exhibit today towards full normalisation with Israel is not necessarily an indication of opposition to the peace process or treaty, but rather a reaction to harsh realities that are still being encountered in their daily lives.

Romantic expectations aside, the last year has been largely spent in setting the proper framework for the emerging relation through negotiating more than twenty sub-agreements that are defining the post-peace cooperation era between the two countries. Difficult issues which highlighted the differences that exist between Jordan and Israel's interests quickly came to the surface, but the resulting agreements, after at times very difficult negotiations, have so far been pragmatic and have taken the interests of both sides into consideration.

The results so far are rather impressive. Agreements in the fields of energy, environment, health, tourism, and others have already been concluded. Two key agreements will be officially concluded very shortly in the areas of trade and transport. These will help take the relation to a new plateau as it will allow people-to-people interaction through trade, joint ventures, and also through the operation of regular bus lines between different Jordanian and Israeli cities. Shuttle flights will soon begin between Tel-Aviv and Amman. A significant step has also been taken in opening up the West Bank market to Jordanian products, allowing trade to flow in both directions for the first time since 1967.

The Amman Economic Conference which will take place in October is another step that would hopefully usher a new era of inter-regional cooperation as well as build a trusting relationship between Jordanians and Israelis. The economic and technological disparities between Jordan and Israel, coupled with the changes brought about by peace between the two countries have placed us today in a transitional period between two equilibriums. This has led some among the Jordanian business community to perceive their Israeli counterparts with a certain degree of anxiety and even fear. We know that some of these concerns are mere stereotype fears. But some of them may be real. Many Jordanian businessmen feel that an unregulated intervention from the Israeli side will result in "gobbling up" the smaller and infant Jordanian industry. During the initial phases of the new economic relation, we believe emphasis should be placed on equity investments, joint ventures and production under licensing. These arrangements will result in building mutual trust and the transfer of needed technology which would in



Marwan Muasher

"For the average Jordanian, the peace treaty with Israel presented hope of a better future and a better life, but that hope has been only partially realised."

turn strengthen the Jordanian productive base. It is hoped that these activities will result in expanded opportunities and new investments rather than limiting the relation to mere trading. The initial signs so far are encouraging.

The political relationship faced its own challenges this past year. The crisis over the expropriation of land in East Jerusalem last May was an example not only of the obstacles in the way of a durable peace, but hopefully of a new trend in approaching difficult problems between Arabs and Israelis and addressing them more effectively.

When the crisis first erupted, the sensitivity and importance of Jerusalem to the Arab and Muslim worlds was manifested in a way that, in my opinion, the Israeli public as well as the government did not expect. But while such a crisis in the past could have easily derailed, and may be even stopped, the peace process, the outcome this time was different from what one might have expected. As far as the relation between Jordan and Israel is concerned, several conclusions can be drawn.

The issue has illustrated in very clear terms the fact that there are very important political questions which have yet to be addressed between Jordan and Israel and which do have an impact on our relation. The same Jordanian Parliament which ratified the treaty in October of last year exhibited, after the expropriation decision, sharp criticism of that treaty and threatened drastic moves in a reflection of the public mood in Jordan regarding this issue. The public in Israel, as well as many in government,

were no doubt taken by surprise given their underlying frame of mind that all political problems with Jordan have been resolved. However, after the dust has settled, the end result will necessarily be a healthier relation between Jordan and Israel, with a better understanding of the dynamic and linkages that exist between problems on other tracks and the Jordanian official positions and public sentiments.

Jordan's position on East Jerusalem was reiterated firmly by the government — namely that East Jerusalem is part of the occupied Arab territories included in United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and that it should go back to Arab sovereignty in any settlement. While Jordan could not remain silent on such an issue, it found that it now had new means by which to try to resolve the issue: Diplomatic channels. Over the course of two weeks, Jordan made its position clear to the Israeli government and the need to reverse the decision — quietly and away from the media.

This effort culminated in a letter by His Majesty King Hussein to Prime Minister Rabin underscoring in no uncertain terms the importance of Jerusalem to all Arabs and Muslims and expressing his view that the city should be a symbol of peace for all rather than a reason for conflict. While it is certain that the decision by Israel to freeze the expropriation of land in East Jerusalem was taken for largely domestic considerations, it is no less certain that the Jordanian position was an important factor in the final outcome.

It can be said here that the Jordanian-Israeli model of

peace in the region passed its first major test with considerable success. It has resulted in a better understanding by Israel of Jordanian sensitivities, and illustrated the commitment by Jordan to use diplomatic channels to resolve difficult issues while standing firm on its principles. No doubt, after the crisis, both sides better realise that peace brings not only added responsibilities, but also added opportunities which can achieve positive results.

An interesting sector in Israel which has shown unequalled support for peace between Jordan and Israel is that of the Arabs in Israel. Peace with Jordan has provided them not only with a bridge to their Arab culture and roots, but also with a long-awaited vindication of their attitudes during the last difficult 47 years in which their self-identity as Arabs was at loggerheads with their nationality as Israelis, and where they were mistrusted by Israel and by Arab states alike. The Jordan-Israeli peace treaty has brought hope, more so than the Egyptian-Israeli one did, of finally reconciling the two faces of what could be considered a schizophrenic life, particularly as Jordan hosts the largest number of their relatives who left their country in 1948. While Jordan has taken important steps to alleviate some of their sufferings, allowing them since 1977 to perform the Haj using Jordanian passports, and recently allotting 10 seats annually at Jordanian universities for their children — there is much that Jordan can do to rebuild bridges with this sector and to correct the gross misperceptions that exist in Jordan and in the Arab World about the Arabs in Israel.

The achievements I just mentioned are indeed monumental if we are to remember the state of affairs only a few years ago. Surely, all this could not have been possible without the support not only of our two governments, but the publics on both sides as well. Despite the obvious political challenges that we are presently experiencing, the fact remains that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has not only been approved by both governments, but also by both parliaments, and with comfortable majorities. The confidence and determination with which Jordan acted had the support of the majority of Jordanians, as represented by the Jordanian Parliament, in an era where participatory democracy is the politics of choice in Jordan. This has been one of Jordan's major achievements, i.e. the ability to take such bold decisions with the support of a majority committed to the principle of pluralism and a mature and healthy opposition committed to playing by the rules of the political game and through peaceful means.

When Jordan opted for peace, it did so based on a

strategic decision to rid itself from the politics of conflict and hopefully help create a new region where interdependence, hope and cooperation replace isolationism, despair, injustice and war. It made that option as a partner with its Arab brothers, the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon, in a collective decision at Madrid to end the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful means, and with the full participation of the Palestinians whose cause is at the core of this conflict. These facts set the parameters of Jordan's thinking and policies — that the peace we seek with Israel is a warm one, going beyond the mere signing of agreements between governments to normal interaction between people — as the only model that ensures prosperity and economic sustainability through cooperation and interdependence. We are thus not only committed to full implementation of the peace treaty, but also to a proactive approach in seeking future areas of cooperation. Further, the peace we seek is comprehensive, believing as we do that it is the only model that ensures durability. With all parties to the conflict hav-

ing started at the same time in Madrid, Jordan views the signing of a peace treaty with Israel as a very important milestone, but a milestone nevertheless, of a yet unfinished road towards a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Only then can we hope to create a permanent peace: One among peoples, and one that peoples will work to preserve.

This proactive approach adopted by Jordan extends beyond the Jordanian-Israeli relation to include Jordan's relations with the Arab World. Indeed, Jordan has been able to considerably improve its relation with a number of Arab countries including Egypt, the Palestinians, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. Almost a year after the signing of the treaty, Jordan's relations with the Arab World are far better than they were on October 26, 1994. This stems from Jordan's firm belief that its new relation with Israel should not come at the expense of that with the Arab World, and that indeed, there is no zero-sum game here.

If there is a lesson to be learned from the nascent Jordan-Israel relation so far,

it is that our peace is not problem-free, but neither does it have to be crippled by problems. The model of peace which this treaty has provided has already shown signs of resilience. But there is undoubtedly much work ahead of us if this model of a just and comprehensive peace coupled with cooperation and interdependence is to be emulated. Many difficult issues have yet to be resolved between us and Israel. I expect that negotiations on such issues as refugees and Jordanian property in Israel will be difficult. And despite the fact that the future of Jerusalem will be negotiated by Palestinians and Israelis, any imposed solution based on the balance of power rather than on the balance of interests and aspirations will leave a bitter taste which would make any durable peace difficult to attain. With all this in mind, I believe that the experience of the last year shows great promise in creating the proper political and economic conditions so that peace is not merely a piece of paper, but a living environment in which all the peoples of the region can enjoy it and protect it.

Scholars, experts debate Middle East peace

(Continued from page 1)

could be translated into economic cooperation, what are the roles of the public and private sectors in this context, and what is the role of the U.S. in these efforts.

The conference is organised by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, which describes itself as an educational foundation supporting scholarly research and informed debate on U.S. interests in the Middle East, in cooperation with Jordan's Institute of Diplomacy.

There are two major elements of significance to the conference: First that it is the first time the respected Washington Institute is convening such an event in the Arab World and a large number of its trustees are personally attending the event and it is also the first time that the organisation is cooperating with a foreign institution in organising such a gathering.

Second, and perhaps even more important, is the level of expertise, knowledge and powers of analysis based on actual information of the participants, who include several former U.S. ambassadors and diplomats, as well as the serving U.S. ambassador to Israel, the

Jordanian ambassador to the Jewish state and the Israeli ambassador to Jordan. Adding further weight to the deliberations is the participation of Israeli and Jordanian business leaders who, as one of them put it, "pull no punches when it comes to discussing the facts on the ground and airing their opinions based on experience."

The very convening of the conference, part of the Washington Institute's activities marking its 10th anniversary, in Amman is an expression of the foundation's support for Jordan's "courageous move" to make peace with Israel and underlines the realisation that the Kingdom "needs the support of its friends for the risks it has undertaken," said Robert Satloff, executive director of the institute.

"There are little of developments in the peace process that are good news," said Mr. Satloff. "The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty is just such a development."

peace and the opportunities it offers," Mr. Satloff told the Jordan Times.

It is important to make peace, but it is more important to build on that peace to cover the entire region and this is also one of the key themes of the debate, he added.

Mr. Satloff described as impressive the comments that the Crown Prince made at the opening of the debate over dinner Saturday night. "We're really impressed by the in-depth understanding and seriousness with which the Crown Prince approached certain issues," he said, adding that the Prince's

Crown Prince comments on regional security

(Continued from page 1)

East.

In such a context, the Israeli celebrations that emphasise what the Israelis see as the Jewish history of Jerusalem since King David conquered it 3,000 years ago is seen as an effort also to politically undermine the Arab and Muslim history of and rights to the city, whose status is to be negotiated between Israel and the Palestinians in final status negotiations starting in May.

Without going into any details, the Crown Prince said: "I think it is crucially important in the context of current security not to continue to manage crises and deadlock the movement of one meeting

remarks on a "regional security structure," were "innovative and often cutting edges."

In his remarks the Crown Prince said the concept of security does not depend on military might alone but on a combination of development of human and natural resources as well as improvements in the life of the people and the fulfillment of their needs.

Mr. Satloff said the Crown Prince had outlined a "constructive" vision of a regional security structure and said it was very enlightening for the visiting members of the foundation.

"Jordan has made new friends," said Mr. Satloff, a professional lecturer at the

Nitze School for advanced international studies at Johns Hopkins University and an analyst of Arab Islamic politics as well as the author of a book on Jordan, "From Abdullah to Hussein: Jordan in Transition."

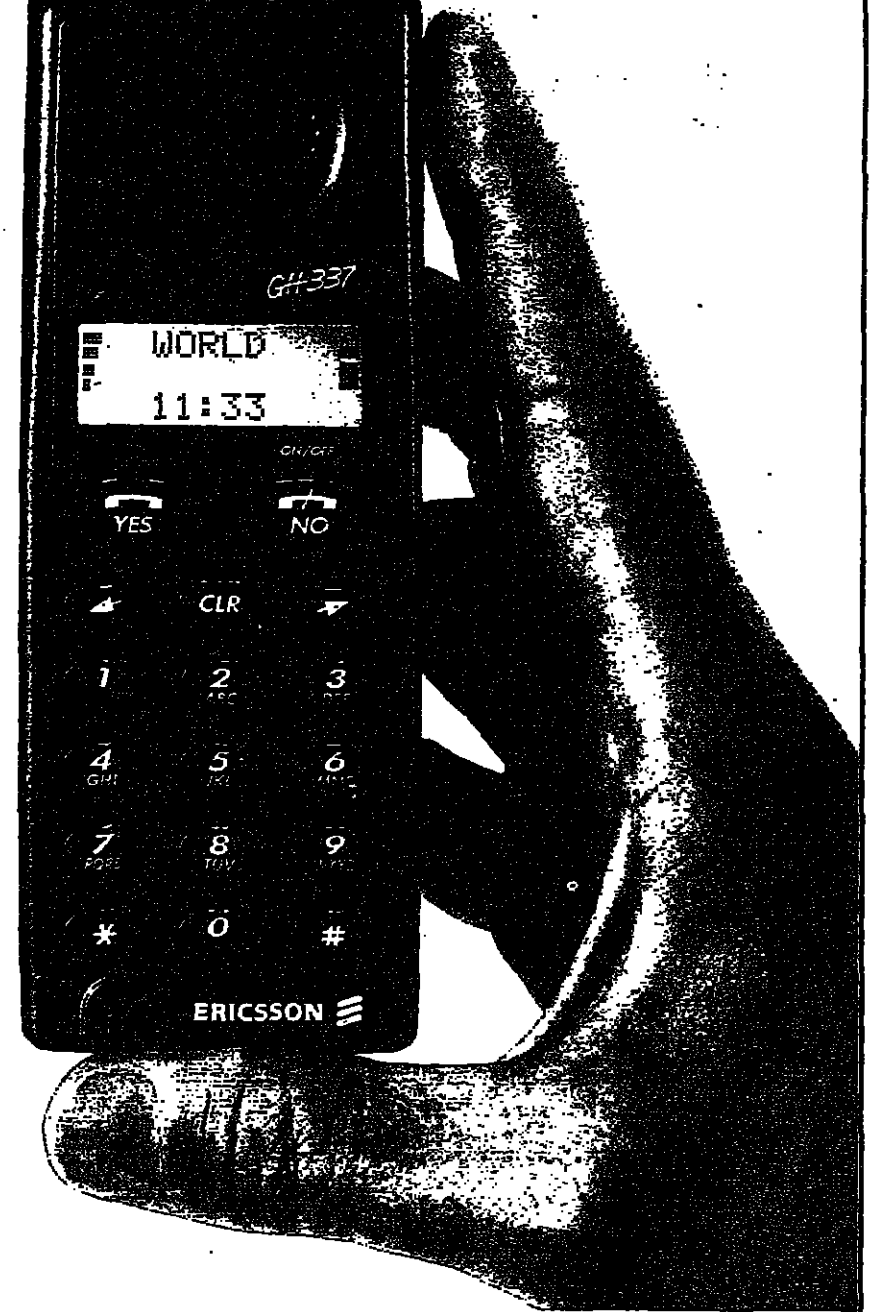
On practical means to support Jordan's economic development so that the people could feel the benefits of peace, Mr. Satloff said "the era of massive infusions of aid" had ended. However, "it might even be better than aid to have long-term investments that would eventually lead to economic development — the very objective of aid."

to the next, to leap into the future as we have seen recently in reference to the importance of the discussions of final status.

"Next year will witness, or (this year) has already witnessed, a process leading to the celebration of the city of Jerusalem under King David," he said. "You may regard it as facetious, but Arab scholars are serious working on and fully in support of the idea of a celebration in 1999 marking 5,000 years of Jerusalem, going back to its Arab origins," said the Regent.

"I think that besting each other in futuristic concepts is sometimes a convenient diversion from current issues," he added.

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Economy

UAE ministries asked to curb spending

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE), a key OPEC producer, Saturday asked its federal ministries to curb spending as part of austerity measures to tackle a deficit caused by weak oil prices.

Finance and Industrial Minister Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktum, urging the 24 federal departments to present their draft budgets, said there were no plans to exceed 1995 expenditure in 1996 even if earnings were higher.

"You are asked to exercise restraint and not approve unnecessary spending in the

1996 budget. You should also not introduce new projects unless 80 per cent of the previous projects were completed," he said in a circular.

"Any improvement in revenues would be used to pay outstanding debt. We urge more cooperation to achieve a balance between spending and revenue," he added.

Like other Gulf oil producers, the UAE has been hit hard by weak crude prices, which have forced it to keep spending low and launch a drive to diversify its economy and increase non-oil income.

But unlike its neighbours,

the UAE has not resorted to domestic borrowing to finance the shortfall, opting instead to cut expenditure through the year and introduce fees on government services. Additional funds also come from Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the two main financiers of the federal budget.

Such measures have slashed the deficit in some years and turned it into a surplus in other fiscal years.

In 1994, a deficit of around 1.4 billion dirhams (\$381 million) was slashed to only 15 million dirhams (\$4.08 mil-

lion) and a 1993 shortfall of 1.7 billion dirhams (\$463 million) to 23.9 million dirhams (\$6.51 million).

In 1992, a deficit of around 1.45 billion dirhams (\$395 million) turned into a surplus of 201 million dirhams (\$56.4 million).

Finance ministry sources said they expected a projected deficit of around \$280 million in 1995 to decline sharply or disappear due to an improvement in oil prices in the first half of the year. 1995 expenditure was forecast at 17.94 billion dirhams

(\$4.88 billion) and revenues at 16.9 billion dirhams (\$4.6 billion).

Non-oil income, mainly from fees and overseas federal investment, was projected to surge to 4.05 billion dirhams (\$1.1 billion) from 3.2 billion dirhams (\$871 million) in 1994.

The UAE produces around 2.16 million barrels per day of oil under an output quota assigned by the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Oil exports account for more than 80 per cent of its income.

UNCTAD forecasts sluggish 2.9 per cent world growth

GENEVA (R) — The world economy will lose some of its momentum and expand by a modest 2.9 per cent this year, dragged down by a weaker U.S. economy and the spillover effects of Mexico's currency crisis, a U.N. report said Monday.

The annual report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) also forecast that the volume of world trade would expand twice as fast as output, or by 5.8 per cent.

Western European economies should maintain their expansion of 2.8 per cent, it said, while recession was likely to continue in Japan, with growth contracting slightly to 0.5 per cent.

"The world economy has been losing steam in 1995," UNCTAD said in its Trade and Development Report 1995. "The biggest slowdowns in growth are in the United States and Latin

America."

UNCTAD said the world economy had expanded last year at the rate of 3.1 per cent, doubling the 1.7 per cent posted in 1993.

The jump was due to economic recovery in member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and continued high growth rates in developing countries.

But growth in the United States, which hit 4.1 per cent last year — the biggest rise in a decade, will slow to 2.7 per cent, according to the study by economists at the Geneva-based UNCTAD.

France and Germany should each see growth drop to 2.5 per cent (against 2.7 and 2.9 respectively in 1994), while Britain and Italy were on course to post a healthier 2.8 and three per cent.

Carlos Fortin, acting chief of UNCTAD, told reporters: "OECD economies will have a sluggish performance in 1995 — one which does not show any prospects by itself of getting any better because the rate of investment is basically sluggish."

"Again in 1995, as in 1994, it will be developing countries that will be taking the lead with a rate of growth of 4.5 per cent," he added.

UNCTAD said that low growth in the 24 OECD countries was being aggravated by restrictive monetary policies aimed at controlling inflation, and by financial instability. The result had been staggering unemployment.

Unemployment had become the "scourge of industrial countries," with 34 million or more than seven per cent of the labour force out of work, the report added.

"But to say that the unemployment of the North is due to competition from cheap imports produced by unskil-

led labour in the South does not stand up to scrutiny when you look at the evidence," Mr. Fortin said.

Growth in Asian countries — the most dynamic group in the world economy — is on track to accelerate by six per cent this year, up slightly from 5.3 per cent in 1994.

"On the whole, Asian countries benefited from the further rise of the yen, which prompted Japanese industries to move labour-intensive manufacturing to other Asian countries," the report said.

China's economy, which has become an important locomotive in the region, will expand at the rate of 9.6 per cent after three years of roughly 12 per cent annual growth, according to UNCTAD.

In Latin America, short-term prospects had been seriously impaired by the impact of Mexico's financial crisis, it said, adding: "There is also the risk that the flow of capital into the region may be further reduced or even dry up."

The report forecast that economic growth in the Latin American region will slow to two per cent from 3.7 per cent. For Mexico, still reeling from the collapse of the peso in December 1994, it predicted a decline in output of five per cent.

Prospects for sub-Saharan African countries were mixed and uncertain. A projected growth rate of 3.3 per cent, against two per cent last year, would be negated by population growth.

African growth would also depend on commodity prices and world demand, as well as weather and political conflicts, UNCTAD said.

"Africa has yet to show tangible signs of strong recovery and sustained growth. The situation remains precarious with trends in Asia and Latin America," the report declared.

No new taxes, austerity stays — Greek premier

SALONIKA, Greece (R) — Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu Saturday offered a disgruntled public no new taxes for 1996 but warned he would keep Greece's stumbling economy under tight control for another year.

In his annual economic policy speech, Mr. Papan-

dreu chided taxpayers for failing to back his drive to increase revenue and cut deficits, threatening permanent damage to the economy.

"We must not deviate from basic targets or we shall enter a permanent regression which all of us will pay for dearly — the government, the state, and the public,"

Mr. Papandreu told a business audience at Salonika's international trade fair.

Apparently trying to strike a compromise between economic hardliners in his party and populists who want an easing of austerity, Mr. Papandreu balanced concessions with a call to the public

to shoulder its burden.

"No new taxes will be imposed... tax exemptions will be curbed and grants will be based on social priority," Mr. Papandreu said.

Urged by the International Monetary Fund, the government has persevered with unpopular measures since last year to raise revenue by strik-

ing at rampant tax evasion, tightening income assessment criteria, and trying to widen the tax base.

It even allowed newspapers to publish the names of the worst tax law offenders to embarrass them publicly. The list included well-known companies and entrepreneurs.

India faces debt trap, urged to cut borrowing

BOMBAY (Agencies) — India's central bank sharply warned the government Monday that it faced the prospect of falling into an internal debt trap unless it cut domestic borrowing and curbed expenditure.

In its annual report, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said there were limits to which it could provide credit to the government, and that large government borrowing from the market was in danger of pushing up interest rates further.

"Clearly, sharper fiscal correction is required if fiscal policy has to be sustainable," the RBI said in an unusually strongly worded report. "It is imperative that over the medium term the growth in interest payments be arrested

through a substantial reduction in borrowing."

Current prime interest rates for major industrial borrowers are around 15.5 per cent, while government 364-day treasury bill yields are around 12.90 per cent.

The RBI said that interest payments to service India's domestic debt would account for 52 per cent of all revenues in the 1995/96 fiscal year ending March.

If borrowing continued at its present levels, "the burden of repayments would be much more severe in the foreseeable future," the RBI said.

Because of the bunching of repayments, the government ran the risk of getting into a vicious circle of borrowing at ever higher levels of interest

to service higher repayments.

In contrast, India's external debt was not a worry. The RBI said that over the past four years since the government launched wide-ranging reforms, the economy had picked up strongly.

Although India's international debt rose to \$95.3 billion at the end of March 1995 from \$91.07 billion the previous year, India's foreign exchange reserves were healthy, exports were rising strongly and industry had responded well to the challenge of liberalisation.

It said that full convertibility of the rupee should be implemented in stages, while controlling inflation had to remain a top priority.

Consumer price inflation averaged 10.3 per cent in 1994/95, and the government hopes to reduce this to around 7.0 per cent in the current year ahead of planned national elections.

The RBI said that growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) was expected to be above 5.5 per cent in the current year, compared with 5.3 per cent the previous year. But it said that domestic savings needed to be improved to help underpin a sustained period of industrial expansion.

It warned that the recent growth in commercial credit had been in excess of the rate of increase in production, and said the flow of resources

to infrastructure development and agriculture should be improved.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Manmohan Singh painted a rosy picture of India's economy, with strong growth and lower inflation, and said further disinvestment in the public sector was under consideration.

Mr. Singh, architect of the free-market reforms begun by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao four years ago, said growth in GDP was expected to be on target at between 5.5 per cent and six per cent in the year to March.

"The Indian economy is well-managed and continues to be well-managed," the finance minister told a conference of economic editors in New Delhi.

The agriculture and industrial sectors were in good shape, with production growing at a brisk 10 per cent a year, he said, adding that India is no longer worried by

foreign exchange reserves or food stocks.

"The constraints that food and foreign exchange raised in the past 40 years do not operate any longer with food stocks touching 36.4 million tonnes in July foreign exchange reserves at \$19.7 billion," he said.

Mr. Singh also said that exports have grown by 25 per cent and imports have also surged as tariff barriers are lowered.

"The balance of payments, fiscal and monetary policies are consistent with our overall macro-economic management," he said.

The finance minister also noted that inflation had been reduced to single digits in the fiscal year to March.

"It will be at seven per cent and will remain under control," he said of fears that double-digit inflation could become an issue in the run-up to next year's general elections.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"I must have used your deodorant by mistake. I have this overwhelming urge to shave my underarms."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Hervé Arnould and Mike Argentin

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VELOC
LALAM
ETEELY
TIENIF

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "_____ OF _____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GLEAM COCOA TRIBAL UNHOLY
Answer: What she considered her new bracelet — "CHARM"-ING

THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

1 In the —
6 Sluggish
10 Guess
14 Wam
15 Flying prefix
16 Sound quality
17 Detection device
18 Gambling game
20 Vows
22 Actress Burstyn
23 Related
24 — Doe
26 Heed
29 Money in
30 Small number
33 Opposed
34 Uproariously funny one
35 Drs. gp.
36 Casino employee
40 Audience
41 Kentucky Derby and Indy 500
42 Secondhand
43 Lixivium
44 State firmly
45 Dwindles
47 Luminary
48 Average
49 Certain mining excavation
52 Baggage item
55 Expressionless one
59 Deck of a ship
60 Unemployed
61 Mild oath
62 Revolutionary leader
63 Repulsive person
64 District
65 Put on

DOWN

1 Find fault constantly
2 Winglike
3 Make over
4 Exclaiming
5 Bowling delight
6 Consumed
7 Information

8 Mine find
9 Family member
10 Fashion
11 Implement
12 English queen
13 Existed
19 Card combination
21 Transgress
24 High — (pranks)
25 Like the Nafud
26 Descriptive term
27 Tooth filling
28 Look fixedly
29 Worker on
30 Disloyal
31 Muslim ruler
32 City sections
34 Indiana cager
37 Wine jar
38 Coffee
39 Monarch
45 Luau treat
46 Bars legally
47 Celerity
48 Elvis' blue shoes

49 Roasting stick
50 Commotion
51 Enid's state: abbr.
52 Look over

53 Inter —
54 Ditty
55 Fleuret
57 Tasseled hat
58 In the past

Peanuts

AND WHEN MY CLIENT FLED FROM THE GARDEN, HE LEFT BEHIND THE LITTLE BLUE JACKET HIS MOTHER HAD MADE FOR HIM.

DID MR. MCGREGOR RETURN IT? NO! HE USED THE JACKET TO DRESS HIS SCARECROW.

MY CLIENT HAS SUFFERED IMMEASURABLY, YOUR HONOR...

THEREFORE, WE ARE REQUESTING REASONABLE FINANCIAL DAMAGES, LIKE MAYBE, HOW ABOUT TWO DOLLARS?

Andy Capp

GOOD NIGHT, ANDY — NICE TALKING TO YOU.

GOOD NIGHT, ART — LIKE.

ISN'T THAT THE CHAP WHO MURDERED HIS BELLA? HOW ARE THEY GETTING ALONG?

WELL, LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY: HE LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETINGS.

IT'S ABOUT THE ONLY TIME HE GETS TO OPEN HIS MOUTH!

Mutt'n'Jeff

MUTT, YOU KNOW I NEVER GET A SEAT ON THE SUBWAY!

SO?

SO TODAY BEFORE I GOT ON THE SUBWAY I FOUND A PRETTY PUSSYCAT — AND WHEN I GOT ON THE SUBWAY —

EVERYBODY GAVE ME THEIR SEAT!

WHAT MADE MUTT JUMP OUT THAT WINDOW?

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you are very active in the world of business and at routines, you can gain fine benefits today.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a good day to study how to best gain your finest wishes and also become more prosperous.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Let your thoughts dwell on intimate matters and how best to gain your wishes, and then pursue them in a most positive fashion.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have secret longings which you can gain very easily today, if you are tactful and be patient in your activities.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study how to make your social life more to your liking and contact good friends you want to be with.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Do whatever will further your outside ambitions and attack them fairly and squarely. A bigwig will back you if you ask.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You may make a new contact who is interesting and full of good ideas and can help to widen your horizons.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are able to make good business arrangements and have a better system of operation today.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you can tie a nervous but clever person down to a talk, you can solve that mutual problem nicely.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Put those ideas to work which can make your tasks run more efficiently. Make sure that you take good care of your mate.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Early today, make the appointments for recreation and romance which you prefer. Enjoy the company of good friends this evening.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You may have a problem at home, but it can be settled nicely and quickly, show that you are an excellent host or hostess.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Restaurants could be 'incinerators of money'

AMMAN — The U.S. unit witnessed modest appreciation against sterling, while appreciating sharply against the yen last week. It ended the week 0.98 per cent higher against the mark, 0.35 per cent higher against sterling, and 2.26 per cent higher against the yen.

Small investment restaurants or public restaurants which do not carry any tourism classification are not required to register at the association and, as such, their number could not be accurately determined. According to the association records, there are some 2,200 public restaurants but statistics from the Ministry of Supply put the number at 5,500 throughout Jordan.

Mr. Akkash saw the main problem facing restaurants in Jordan as being the lack of training personnel to meet the needs of these investments. He stressed the importance of training capable local staff or, otherwise, this business would be an "incinerator of money."

Asked to evaluate the tourism season, Mr. Akkash said it was "less than good." He attributed it to tourists coming to Jordan in groups and, as such, getting all the services at their hotels, leaving no benefits to restaurants in the city. "We need individual tourism and this can be determined by the developments in the region in general," he pointed out adding that restaurants depend largely on internal tourism and not on those coming from abroad except when the visitors are from neighbouring countries such as Saudi Arabia and Arab Gulf countries.

Mr. Akkash expressed satisfaction over the issue of prices, noting that since 1993, when a lawsuit was brought against the Ministry of Supply, the government has not intervened in the pricing at classified restaurants. Prices only remain fixed at public restaurants (Al Dastour).

According to the minister of communications, an ambitious national plan to provide one million telephone lines throughout the Kingdom will be implemented through setting up a public shareholding company that would build telephone exchanges and utilise the numbers under clear terms and on condition that the government get a fixed sum of money for giving the company the rights to use operate the lines. The minister expected the new lines to be in operation by end of 1997 or early 1998. This scheme is totally separate from the national communications programme currently under implementation by the telecommunications Corporation (Al Ra'i).

U.N. body warns developing countries on derivatives

LONDON (R) — A United Nations body urged developing countries Monday to be wary of complex financial instruments known as derivatives and said setting up futures exchanges without sufficient demand could prove dangerous.

"We are trying to sound a note of caution," said Roger Lawrence, deputy to the secretary general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), speaking at the launch of the group's 1995 report on trade and development.

"The whole Barings episode has been a wake-up call," he said. "Be careful, be careful."

British merchant bank Barings collapsed in February under the weight of derivatives deals which went wrong.

Derivatives are complex financial instruments which can be used to "hedge," or protect against, adverse movements in markets.

Because derivatives are highly leveraged instruments, speculators stand to gain or lose large amounts of money on a relatively small up front investment.

"Artificial initiatives, such as the establishment of futures and options exchanges purely to attract business to nascent financial centres, are likely to lead to markets dominated by speculation that poses a threat to the entire financial sector," it added.

"He found that those leading companies, which employ tens of thousands of 'cheap' expatriate labourers, were forcing them to work several hours of overtime everyday without pay," the newspaper reported.

The companies are not granting the labourers their legal annual leave and have been withholding their pay. Other violations were recorded," it added.

The newspaper did not name the companies but said they were well-known establishments owned by what it called influential people. The firms were involved in cleaning, general trading, contracting and private security.

It said Sheikh Kulaib inspected the companies' registration books, files on workers and other documents.

There was no immediate comment from the minister's office.

Guest workers, mainly from Egypt and Asian countries, make up almost a million of Kuwait's 1.8 million population. About 200,000 are domestic servants.

Hundreds of inspectors from Sheikh Kulaib's ministry make regular inspections of employers to try to enforce labour regulations setting standards for pay, accommodation and safety.

But Arab Gulf states like Kuwait have often been accused by international human rights groups of mistreating guest workers, primarily by withholding pay, underpaying or delaying pay.

Domestic servants are not covered by labour law protection. Wages for office cleaners, for example, vary between 20 dinars (\$66) to 35 dinars (\$116) a month.

Kuwaiti officials have said some labour problems involving expatriate workers stem from unscrupulous manpower companies both in Kuwait and Asian countries.

The government says it wants to crack down on manpower agents who illegally sell entry visas to Asian migrant workers but do not provide them with jobs on arrival.

The workers are then forced to take menial jobs at lower salaries than they expected and in poor accommodation.

Kuwaiti minister uncovers more labour abuse

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's labour minister found several leading companies denying pay and holidays to thousands of expatriate workers when he made an unscheduled inspection of employers' premises, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The minister, Ahmad Al Kulaib, made the visits Wednesday after the firms allegedly refused to allow access to his inspectors, the English-language Arab Times reported.

"I have never heard about any kind of credit being given to women," said the People's Bank of China official.

"Commercial banks have to consider whether their loans can be repaid."

However, one poor and backward district in north-western China is experimenting with microcredit targeted at women and claims a high rate of success, and repayment.

A senior executive of the state-owned Agricultural Bank of China, one of China's big four policy banks, recommended wider implementation of the scheme, in defiance of entrenched official nervousness over loaning money outside the state system.

"Shanxi is the first... province to give cheap loans to rural women who live in poor counties to help them become better off," said Yan Dianshan, vice chairman of the Women's Federation of the northwestern province.

"We call the programme 'a chain of rings for women to shake off poverty plan'," Ms. Yan said in a telephone interview from the provincial capital, Taiyuan.

The programme was launched in 1989 in poverty-stricken Luliang district and the local branch of the Agricultural Bank of China agreed to extend 135,000 yuan (\$16,265) worth of loans to women whose annual income was below 400 yuan (\$48); among the poorest in the province, she said.

In 1992, the loans reached 500,000 yuan (\$60,000) and other parts of the province began to follow Luliang's example. China says 70 million of its 800 million rural residents live below the poverty line and many are women.

In 1995, the loans have already hit 7.8 million yuan (\$939,000) to women whose

annual income is under 680 yuan (\$81), living in 50 areas designated as poverty districts in Shanxi.

"We usually do not give money directly to poor women," Ms. Yan said. "We give them chicks, rabbits, piglets and other materials to make it easy for them to repay or we lend money to better-off women responsible for poverty relief work for poorer women."

The loans are signed with the Agricultural Bank, given at preferential 2.4 per cent interest and repaid in three years.

Repayment rates are high, echoing experiences of women's world banking and Bangladesh's groundbreaking Grameen Bank.

The non-profit Women's World Banking (WWB) finds low-income women are the best credit risk in the world, president Nancy Barry said in an interview last week.

"Their repayment rate is 95 to 98 per cent, better than that of large clients of commercial banks."

Hua Ruoming, an executive of the Agricultural Bank, applauded the developments.

"We call on the government to set requirements on policy banks to help women," she said.

Ms. Barry said she was interested in expanding WWB into China but has been delayed because it can only affiliate itself with non-government, private, non-profit-making organisations not linked to a political party, almost impossible in China where the Communist Party controls all financial institutions.

"There are emerging structures in China that may well be good affiliates and we are very interested in exploring that and will be doing so in the coming year," Ms. Barry said.

China bank has small loans on offer to women

BEIJING (R) — Giving small loans to lift women out of poverty is a major issue at Beijing's world women's meeting and a remote district bank is setting trends in China, where credit is monopoly of a Stalinist-style banking system.

An official of the central bank, the People's Bank of China, summed up the official attitude to "microcredit," or lending to the very poor, in a country where market reform has swept many industries but banking remains the prerogative of the state.

Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (September 5 - September 8, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit witnessed modest appreciation against sterling, while appreciating sharply against the yen last week. It ended the week 0.98 per cent higher against the mark, 0.35 per cent higher against sterling, and 2.26 per cent higher against the yen.

While New York closed on an official holiday Monday, the dollar depreciated modestly against sterling and the mark Tuesday, while appreciating against the yen. Reports indicated that the dollar's retreat was attributed to profit-taking and recent political and economic problems in some European countries such as France, Spain and Italy. Analysts indicated that the failure of these countries to lower their budget deficits will push traders to buy marks against their currencies.

The dollar rose against other major currencies Wednesday, especially against the yen. It rose after the release of Japanese foreign trade statistics showing a sharp decline in the current account surplus, which dropped to \$9.22 billion in July, compared to \$11.60 billion in July 1994. The dollar also rose on news that the Bank of Japan intervened in the market to buy dollars. Its rise was capped by profit-taking, however, while dealers' worries that the Bank of Japan and the Fed might intervene in the market to support the dollar limited its downside.

The U.S. unit appreciated marginally against other major currencies Thursday on expectations that the Bank of Japan will ease its monetary policy the following day. It continued its appreciation against the yen at the end of the week, while depreciating marginally against the mark and sterling. News that the Bank of Japan had lowered its discount rate by 0.5 per cent lifted the dollar higher against the yen. Moreover, news that the Bank of Japan also intervened in the market to buy dollars caused the dollar to surge above the 100 yen level for the first time since January. However, the dollar slipped later that day when the Fed refrained from joining the Bank of Japan's move.

The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.4773 marks, 99.68 yen and at \$1.5505 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	Sept. 5 - 1995	Sept. 8 - 1995	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.5500	1.5505	(0.35) %
Deutsche Mark	1.4628	1.4773	(0.98) %
Swiss Franc	1.1965	1.2160	(1.60) %
French Franc	5.0464	5.0805	(0.67) %
Japanese Yen	97.43	99.68	(2.26) %

* USD per STG

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.68	5.68	5.71	5.93
Sterling Pound	6.62	6.81	6.56	6.62
Deutsche Mark	4.25	4.18	4.10	4.08
Swiss Franc	2.75	2.81	2.75	2.68
French Franc	5.75	5.70	5.62	5.62
Japanese Yen	0.90	0.81	0.56	0.40

*Interest rates for deposits exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Buy	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7140	0.7160
Sterling Pound	1.1053	1.1108
Deutsche Mark	0.4826	0.4850
Swiss Franc	0.5869	0.5895
French Franc	0.1404	0.1411
Japanese Yen*	0.7145	0.7181
Dutch Guilder	0.4312	0.4334
Swedish Krona		
Italian Lira*	0.0442	0.0444
Belgian Franc		

* Per 100

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDANI				
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 10/09/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PLC	640	145630	227.750	228.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1771	7986	4.500	4.510
BANK OF JORDAN	1507	5123	3.400	3.400
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	30260	36455	1.170	1.220
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1370	1370	2.490	2.490
THE HOUSING BANK	700	3955	5.650	5.650
JORDAN KAWAT BANK	109	302	2.760	2.780
JORDAN GULF BANK	1150	131	1.160	1.150
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	250	938	3.800	3.780
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	3112	11626	3.730	3.730
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1200	4800	4.000	4.000
BEIT ALAHLI SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2480	1995	3.200	3.300
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	21600	2167	2.980	2.980
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1000	5300	5.350	5.300
PESTALUNPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	792934	1323953	1.640	1.620
BANKS SECTOR	861173	1579915	INDEX NUMBER: 185.94	CHANGE: +0.137
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	2100	5421	2.590	2.590
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	1000	2540	2.540	2.540
INSURANCE SECTOR	3100	7961	INDEX NUMBER: 134.69	CHANGE: -0.254
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	9841	16036	1.630	1.630
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	250	2138	8.300	8.550
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	3650	20450	5.600	5.600
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	250	685	2.760	2.730
ARAB POLYMER INDUSTRIES	6432	14876	4.950	4.950
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	250	258	1.000	1.030
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	290	341	1.190	1.180
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	5750	3910	0.650	0.680
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODITY HOTELS	36750	89413	2.450	2.480
ARAB LUMBER FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	4700	15020	3.190	3.170
KARSA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	3250	4388	1.330	1.340
SERVICES SECTOR	71413	166082	INDEX NUMBER: 127.50	CHANGE: -0.254
ATTARKEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	400	480	1.200	1.200
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	6486	23808	3.670	3.680
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	1700	5117	3.010	3.010
THE ARAB FODDER	2100	10305	4.900	4.900
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	3356	31510	9.390	9.370
THE JORDAN WOODWORK MILLS	580	4266	7.450	7.350
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	2116	10657	5.030	5.040
JORDAN DAIRY	100	250	2.500	2.500
THE JORDAN FIBRE MANUFACTURING	150	380	2.540	2.520
SPINNING & WEAVING	3400	6392	1.880	1.880
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	19531	7450	7.400	7.400
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	125	667	5.400	5.370
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	190000	118974	6.00	6.00
JORDAN WOOD CONVERTING & TRADING	750	1050	1.390	1.380
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	41671	45630	1.050	1.000
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	150	296	1.910	1.970
JORDAN SODA-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2900	172	1.160	1.160
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JWICO	1026	3210	3.120	3.100
JORDAN SULFO-CHEMICALS	500	768	1.530	1.470
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1000	2153	2.160	2.150
SOUTHERN INVESTMENT	1450	2558	1.730	1.770
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	4800	15375	3.210	3.180
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	11500	23437	2.030	2.040
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	5450	8910	1.640	1.640
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	4344	5962	1.380	1.370
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	287918	342992	INDEX NUMBER: 125.99	CHANGE: -0.037
GRAND TOTAL	1223604	2096949	INDEX NUMBER: 156.24	CHANGE: +0.034
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		179224		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		151476		

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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Glorious Graf captures her greatest victory

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Steffi Graf has won the Grand Slam, the Golden Slam, 18 slam titles and slammed more than \$16.5 million in winnings into her account.

But of all the thrills, the troubled 26-year-old Graf said her emotionally-charged, three-set triumph over returning arch-rival Monica Seles in Saturday's U.S. Open final was her greatest moment.

"This is the biggest win that I have ever achieved. There is nothing that even comes close to this one," said Graf, who jumped for joy after a tension-packed 7-6, 0-6, 6-3 struggle over Seles in a duel the tennis world had dreamed about for more than two years.

A crucial turning point came in the first set tie-breaker. Graf double faulted on the 11th point to let Seles serve for the set. Seles thought she won it with an ace, but the ball was ruled out. Seles appealed in vain to umpire Richard Kaufman.

"I just asked him are you sure," Seles said. "The match would have been very different if that serve had been called in."

After the call, Seles sent two-handed baseline shots long on the next two points to hand Graf the set, the first she had lost in her comeback.

Graf's glorious victory gave her a fourth U.S. Open crown and an 18th Grand

Slam title, tying her with legends Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert behind Margaret Smith Court and Helen Wills Moody on the all-time Grand Slam win list.

However, Graf, a consummate champion who oozes grace and skill, was beset by physical and personal problems that she thought she would be unable to overcome.

Back problems plagued her before the tournament and a foot injury during the fortnight sent her to a hospital for an hour and a half Friday night for tests that showed no fracture.

The biggest distraction felt by Graf has certainly been the ongoing imprisonment of her father, Peter, who is suspected of tax evasion connected to his handling of his daughter's riches.

"There were a lot of obstacles to climb over," said Graf, who also had been hounded by reporters stalking out her Soho district apartment in Manhattan.

"I really didn't think I could do it. The days before and even at the beginning of the tournament I didn't think I had a chance being here where I am right now."

"Going out there today I didn't feel like I would have the tools for it, really. It has been a strange feeling."

The opponent was familiar yet strange at the same time, too.

Graf had beaten Seles six of 10 times they had played, but had not faced the player who once replaced her as number one since losing to her in the final of the 1993 Australian Open.

Seles, making an amazing return after overcoming the physical and emotional affects of being stabbed in the back by a lunatic Graf fan during a match in Hamburg, had shown her old fire and power in winning every match in straight sets since reappearing in Toronto last month.

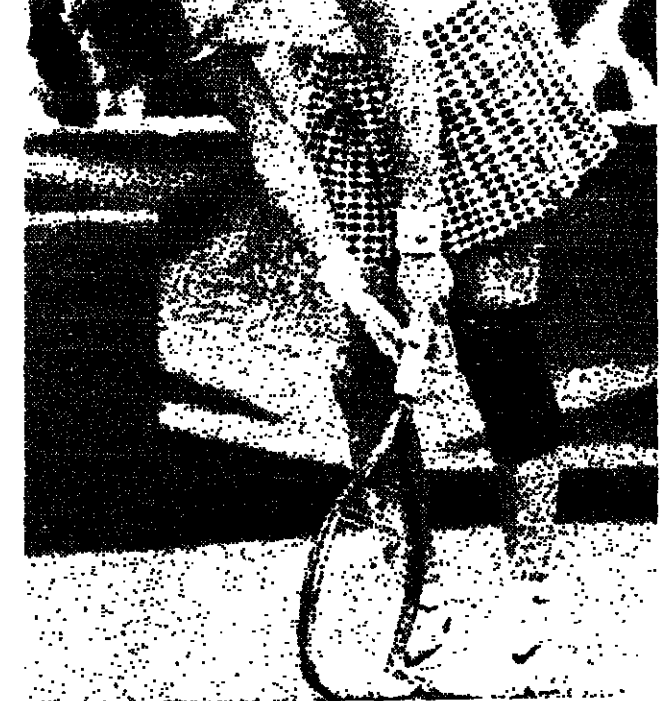
The two champions squared off for the fantasy final and fought a fascinating duel, stretching each other to their limits in a gruelling contest that saw Graf win 96 points in all to 95 for Seles.

In the end, Graf made Seles pay for a single lapse in concentration by breaking her thanks to a couple of groundstroke errors in the fourth game of the third set. The service break was the only one the German made in the one hour, 52-minute clash.

After the match there was an emotional hug with her mother, Heidi, and a long embrace at the net with Seles.

In the locker room, after tossing her rackets into the crowd in celebration, a surprise awaited the great champion.

"I came back in the locker



Monica Seles of the U.S. reacts to a missed point during her U.S. Open final against Steffi Graf (AFP photo)

room and they drenched me with beer. First I was thinking they were going to give me beer, everybody in the locker room. But they just poured beer over me," she said. "They have been so great, so appreciative that it has been incredible."

Graf, who won \$575,000, said she was going "to celebrate 'big tonight. Very big."

"It has been a dream," said Graf. "It seems unreal." Meanwhile Seles walked away from the U.S. Open feeling like a champion despite losing to Graf in the rousing three-set final.

"It's been very exciting to be playing again. Just being out there, feeling everything once again," Seles said after her first Grand Slam tournament in more than two years ended with defeat to the top-seeded Graf.

"From the first time I walked out here on Monday night the electricity was amazing. One reason I came back was to feel this excitement and I definitely felt it," Seles told the crowd in the post-match ceremony.

"The last three weeks have been amazing, absolutely from being on the tennis court and playing some great tennis and off the court also," said the second-seeded Seles. After having secluded her-

self during her long recovery, Seles has relished the spotlight and an adoring public.

She savored New York at Broadway shows, restaurants, trendy stores and even ventured for a walk on the sidelines of a New York Giants football game during the Open fortnight.

"Wherever I went the people have been so nice," Seles said. "I never kind of had that before. So that has been the best part of it for me."

"I just felt, wow I made the right decision," said the Yugoslav-born Seles, who earlier this year became a U.S. citizen.

The public's welcome was needed to soothe any fears lingering in her mind, says Seles's agent, Stephanie Tolleson.

"Monica is definitely a very confident person," she said. "But there were always little doubts in the back of her mind."

"It's nice to have that confirmation that she made all the right decisions."

Seles said she will now return to Florida to rest her sore left knee. The only other tournament she has penned in on her calendar this year is the season finale WTA Tour championships back in New York, Nov. 13-19.

Klinsmann

hits 2 for Bayern

BONN (R) — Juergen Klinsmann's first two goals for Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich, already dubbed the "dream team" by the German press, gave them a 2-0 win over Freiburg on Saturday.

The former Tottenham striker's goals kept Bayern top of the Bundesliga table with a maximum possible 15 points, having won all their five games so far.

But the pace heated up behind the leaders, with German Cup holders Borussia Moenchengladbach moving into second place with a 3-2 win over Hansa Rostock.

Agassi, Sampras reach final

NEW YORK (R) — Defending champion Andre Agassi held off a thrilling comeback by Boris Becker on Saturday to reach the final of the U.S. Open where he will meet Pete Sampras in the eagerly-anticipated showdown of the top two players in the world.

The top-ranked Agassi finally ended the pitched battle more than three hours after it began by breaking Becker at love with consecutive ferocious service return winners to clinch a 7-6, 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 semifinal victory.

A beaming Agassi then pointed his racket at the television camera and issued a challenge: "Pete, if you're watching, I'm coming."

"I'm happy to be in the final on Sunday and Pete being there makes it all the more special," said Agassi who has not lost a match since falling to Becker in the Wimbledon semifinals, a remarkable 26-match winning streak.

Second seed Sampras opened the super Saturday programme by launching 27 aces and smacking 70 winners to score a 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 victory over 14th-seeded fellow-American Jim Courier.

Sampras, whose most lethal weapon has accounted for 113 aces in six victories, will be going for his third U.S. Open title on Sunday and said he was hoping it would come against Agassi.

"When you win the U.S. Open, you want to beat the best player in the world," said Sampras, who lost the Australian Open final to Agassi but rebounded by winning his third consecutive Wimbledon crown in July.

Agassi got himself out of trouble early, facing break points in his first three service games and saving them all. Clearly frustrated and further agitated by a few questionable line calls, Becker seemed ready to go down in straight sets when Agassi scored the first break of the match for 3-1 and held for 4-1.

But with the top seed just eight points from the final, Becker started booming in serves and volleying brilliantly.



World No. 2 Pete Sampras

With the pro-Agassi crowd suddenly chanting "Boris, Boris" in hopes of extending the drama, he ran off five games in a row to take the third set.

"He deserved to win third set with the way he raised his level of play," said Agassi, who looked a bit shell-shocked before bearing down to hold serve to start the fourth set.

"I sort of came back from the dead again like in Wimbledon," said Becker, who rallied from a set and two breaks down to beat Agassi in July.

"He just played typical Andre Agassi shots to finish off the match," said 1989 Open winner Becker. "Three winners and I didn't even see the ball."

Said the victorious American: "It was a great match all around, there is no other way

of looking at it. It was great tennis."

Sampras and Courier also gave the fans their money's worth in a match in which all four sets turned on the conversion of a single break point.

In the end, it was Sampras's uncanny ability to come up with a huge serve or winning volley each time he faced a break point that carried the day.

In all, he saved eight of nine break points he faced, including running off five winners in a row after facing triple break point early in the third set.

"I think that was a huge turning point of the match," said Sampras, who finished his match some six hours before Agassi's victory following the women's final won by Steffi Graf 7-6, 0-6, 6-3 over Monica Seles.

U.S. Open quips and quotes

* Stefan Edberg, when asked what advice he would give his Swedish Davis Cup teammates on their first visit to Las Vegas for the Sept. 22-24 matches. "I would just give them the advice to bring a lot of money."

* Andre Agassi, responding to Edberg's suggestion. "I will give the Swedes a lot of money if they promise to stay up in the casino all night."

* Boris Becker, asked what he thought of the seven consecutive service breaks in his match with Australian Jason Stoltenberg. "It didn't feel like a man's match out there."

Herbert wins Italian GP

MONZA, Italy (Agencies) — Johnny Herbert won an action-packed Italian Grand Prix here on Sunday, his second victory of the season at the wheel of his Benetton Renault.

Mika Hakkinen of Finland was second in McLaren Mercedes, with Germany's Heinz-Harald Schumacher and Damon Hill were both forced out of the race on lap 23 when the Englishman's Williams rammed the German's Benetton from behind, sending both cars into the sand trap.

Schumacher had been running second behind Austrian Gerhard Berger's Ferrari when on the 24th lap Hill attacked him and attempted to pass at the second chicane.

Hill's Williams appeared to drive into the German's Benetton as they braked and both spun off into the gravel trap.

The collision left the Ferrari fans celebrating as their two cars, driven by Berger and Frenchman Jean Alesi, led the race.

Schumacher seemed livid with anger and approached Hill after they had stepped from the wreckage of their entangled vehicles but it was not clear if he spoke heatedly or attempted to do more.

Their crash was the latest incident in a series of clashes between the two which started at last year's Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide.

The two title rivals also collided when fighting for the lead during the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

Schumacher was driving at Monza under the threat of a one-race ban after over-vigorous defensive driving when leading the Belgian Grand Prix two weeks ago.

GOREN BRIDGE

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HOLD YOUR HORSES

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ Q7
♥ A Q 5 3
♦ Q 6 4
♣ J 8 7

EAST
♠ 8 5 4
♥ K 10
♦ Q 10 2
♣ K 10 6 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A 10 2
♥ Q 7 6 4
♦ A K J 7 3
♣ Q 4

The bidding:
NORTH: Pass
EAST: Pass
SOUTH: 1NT
WEST: Pass
NORTH: 2NT
EAST: Pass
SOUTH: 3NT
WEST: Pass
NORTH: Pass
EAST: Pass
SOUTH: Pass
WEST: Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

The first technique an average player turns to when playing a hand is the finesse. The expert will also resort to that tactic, but usually as a last resort.

North-South bid the hand well to reach three no trump. Although North's hand was loaded with quacks (queens and jacks), the diamond fit increased the value of the holding and justified the game invitation.

South's fifth diamond was ample reason to accept.

West led a low spade and declarer could count only eight sure tricks. Unless the defenders were to err egregiously, the ninth trick would have to come from the heart suit, and the obvious way to collect it was via a finesse for the king.

Most players we know would win the opening spade in hand with the ten, run off the queen, and then lead a heart to the queen. As can be seen, that inevitably leads to defeat.

If nothing else works, the master technician will also have to rely on that even-money chance. But the expert first makes life as difficult as possible for the defenders.

Better technique is to cross to dummy with the queen of diamonds at trick two and then lead a low heart! It takes an East with a lot of fortune and table presence to duck smoothly holding K 10 doubleton. If East goes up with the king, the queen is declarer's ninth trick.

If East does follow with the 10 and holds the trick, declarer will duck the next spade and win the continuation. Next come four more diamond tricks, and only if South is unable to reach the situation will the heart finesse be taken.

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Contract No. (135/95)

- The Water Authority of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing / Government Tenders Directorate, invites experienced foreign contractors from countries which meet the eligibility criteria of the European Investment Bank and local contractors who have been qualified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as first or second grade in water and sewerage, or a joint venture between eligible foreign and local contractors to submit their offers for the supply, delivery and construction of Greater Zarka Wastewater Project. Foreign contractors are strongly encouraged to joint venture or associate with the above graded local contractors.
- The project consists of the supply and installation of about 18km of concrete pipes for wastewater collection system ranging in diameter from 150 mm to 300 mm.
- Tender documents are available and may be examined and purchased from the Government Tenders Directorate at: the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in Amman: P. O. Box: 1220 Tel. (+962 6 606 757, Fax: (+962 6 606 751).
- The non-refundable fee for each set of tender documents will be JD 150.
- The latest date set for the purchase of tender documents by eligible bidders is October 4th, 1995.
- Bids are due not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Saturday, October 14th, 1995 to the office of Government Tenders Directorate.

Sincerely Yours,
Eng. Bashir Al-Jaghbeer
Acting Director General

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De La Hoya keeps lightweight title

LAS VEGAS (AP) — It was a new Oscar De La Hoya, but the same old result.

De La Hoya, showing he can be a boxer as well as a puncher, won his second straight battle of Los Angeles lightweights Saturday night when Genaro Hernandez quit after the sixth round with blood flowing from his broken nose.

De La Hoya retained the WBO version of the lightweight title when Hernandez turned to referee Richard Steele after the bell sounded to end the sixth round and motioned he would go on no further.

"He broke my nose," Hernandez said. "I messed up. It's stupid to stay in there and make it worse. There's always tomorrow."

De La Hoya had vowed before the fight to show some new boxing skills, and he did, confusing Hernandez with movement from a crouching style while building up a big lead on the ringside scorecards.

But in the end, it was once again De La Hoya's power that proved the difference, as he sent blood gushing from the nose of Hernandez with the first big flurry of the sixth round.

"I was barely warmed up," De La Hoya said. "He quit. They told me I broke his nose. He knew I was going to do more damage. He was in pain."

The abrupt ending drew loud boos from some 8,000 fans at Caesars palace, as a jubilant De La Hoya jumped on the ropes in the corner to celebrate with his hands held high.

"I've already had a nose injury and Oscar broke it again," Hernandez said. "Every punch was hurting me. It's good to lose to somebody better than you. Today, Oscar was better than me."

It was the second straight win over a fellow Los Angeles lightweight rival for De La Hoya, who stopped Rafael Ruelas in the second round May 6 in the same outdoor arena.

The fight earned De La Hoya some \$2 million but, more importantly, kept him in line for future megafights at 63.5 kilograms (140 pounds) that include a planned May 5 date against Julio Cesar Chavez.

"I feel strong. I'm ready for the big guys now, although my trainers might not say so," De La Hoya said.

It was a different De La Hoya who fought against Hernandez, as he battled cautiously from the opening bell while trying to confuse Hernandez with movement and some new boxing skills.

De La Hoya, who was an 8-1 favourite, won most of the early rounds despite hurting his back in the first round. He was ahead by four points on two scorecards and two on a third when the fight ended.

De La Hoya, winning for the 19th time in as many fights, staggered Hernandez in the fourth round. But Hernandez was didn't appear badly hurt until a flurry early in the sixth round ripped open his nose.

The crowd in the outdoor arena at Caesars Palace made it clear early that Hernandez was their favourite.

Hernandez, 60 kilograms (133 pounds), clad in a robe bearing the colours of the Mexican flag, entered the ring to wild cheers, while De La Hoya drew a mixture of boos and cheers as he came in a few minutes later.

Hernandez gave up the WBA junior lightweight title to get the fight with De La Hoya. He had defended it eight times over a three year period.

De La Hoya, 61 kilograms (135 pounds), came out cautiously, barely throwing a punch for the first half of the opening round. But as he began to start landing it was clear that he would be the harder puncher against Hernandez, who was fighting for the first time as a lightweight.

De La Hoya seemed determined from the opening bell to play the role of skillful boxer rather than the hard punching style that earned him 16 knockouts in his 18 wins.

But the new crouching style with lots of lateral body movement proved mostly ineffective early until De La Hoya caught Hernandez with a short right hand seconds into the fourth round that sent the former junior lightweight champion staggering a few steps back.

Veteran jockey decides to quit

LONDON (AP) — Lester Piggott, who rode a record 30 classic winners but later was jailed for tax evasion, has announced his retirement at age 59.

Quoted in the Mail On Sunday, the jockey, who has not had a ride in English horse racing this season, said he was struggling to get down to his riding weight.

"I will miss riding, it is what I have done all my life," Piggott was quoted as saying. "But I cannot go on forever. I will miss all the excitement of the race track."

"I'd like to remain in racing but I have no idea in what capacity. I'm not going to vanish."

Piggott, who rode his first winner at age 12 in 1948, was a champion jockey in England 11 times and won the nation's most prestigious flat race, the English Derby, a record nine times between 1954 and 1983.

Piggott, far taller than most jockeys at 5-foot-7 (1.70 metres) and known as "the long fellow," retired in 1985 after more than 4,300 victories to move into training horses.

In 1987, however, he was jailed for a year for failing to accurately declare tax on his income.

The scandal meant that the honour bestowed on him by Queen Elizabeth II in 1975, the Order of the British Empire (OBE), was

taken off him. Without the jail sentence and tax fraud investigation, critics believe he almost certainly would have become Sir Lester Piggott.

He returned the saddle in 1989 and a year later triumphed in the Breeders Cup Mile on Royal Academy. In 1992 at age 56, Piggott rode his 30th British classic on Rodrigo de Triano in the English 2000 Guineas.

That year he also returned to the Breeders Cup meet and fractured his collar bone and two ribs in a fall from Mr. Brooks in opening race in Miami.

"It's going to be a long time before we see his like again," said Geoff Lewis, a former rival who now is a trainer.

"It had to come to an end but let's hope he is not lost to the sport. He could give so much back if people would let him."

Willie Carson, still riding at age 52, was another of Piggott's biggest rivals and has ridden five Derby winners.

"He had a great will to win and he was a very hard man to beat in a race," the Scot said. "He was always unpredictable but he got himself on the best horses."

"And he revolutionised riding styles as he rode very short because he was on the tall side for a jockey."

Africans enjoy cash bonanza at athletics Grand Prix final

MONACO (R) — Moses Kiptanui led from the front on Saturday as African athletes enjoyed a cash bonanza at the Grand Prix final.

The three-times world steeplechase champion won the men's overall title and total prize money of \$130,000 for just over eight minutes' work on a hot, sunny afternoon.

Mozambique's Maria Mutola, disqualified in the semifinals of the Gothenburg World Championships 800 metres last month, gained some compensation by winning the women's overall title.

Kiptanui needed to finish only third on Saturday to clinch the overall title following his two world records this season, unless one of his rivals set a world record.

At the end of a long, arduous season this was never likely and Kiptanui duly romped to victory in eight minutes 02.45 seconds, with his countrymen filling the next seven places in an event the Kenyans have made their own.

Altogether Kenyans will take home \$200,000 in prize money from the steeplechase alone.

"I'm very happy with my performance," said Kiptanui. "It's been a long season so to run 8:02 is fantastic."

"Right now I'm very happy and winning the overall title is a great bonus. Now I have to go away and have a strong winter without injury."

Mutola set a year's best of 1:55.72 to confirm she is unchallenged in the world over two laps. In the process she dragged Britain's Kelly Holmes and Frenchwoman Patricia Djate to national records with 1:56.21 and 1:56.53 respectively.

The upset of the day came in the men's 100 metres, a non-Grand Prix event, which was expected to provide the latest instalment in the Linford Christie-Donovan Bailey series.

Christie, the Olympic champion, headed the Canadian world champion by four wins to three this season before Saturday's race but in

the event Australian Damien Marsh was the surprise winner in 10.13 seconds with Bailey second and Christie fifth.

"Unbelievable," said Marsh. "I just went out and ran as hard as I could but when I dipped I thought it would be close."

The other invitation event of the evening saw Algerian Noureddine Morceli give yet another magnificent exhibition when he won the 1,500 metres by more than four seconds from American Steve Holman in 3:28.37. He is the only person to have run faster.

Kasparov, Anand matchup highlights clash of skills, style

NEW YORK (AP) — When the world championship opens Monday atop the World Trade Centre, it will be as much a clash between the personalities of Garry Kasparov and Viswanathan Anand as it will be a battle of chess strategy.

Both grandmasters are renowned for their fierce attacking style and ability to battle their way through unfathomable complications. While Anand is a better improviser, says former U.S. champion Lev Alburt, Kasparov is more scientific.

But the real differences lay more in the players' individual make-up.

Charismatic, flamboyant and ego-driven, Kasparov is used to getting his own way. In contrast, the studious, easy-going "nice-guy" Anand keeps his energies contained and mind focused on the upcoming contest.

At stake in the 20-game, five-week battle is Kasparov's Professional Chess Association world title — and the difference of a half million dollars.

The winner will take home \$1 million; the loser \$500,000.

The games, which will be played weekdays starting at 3 p.m. (1900 GMT) daily and finish within a seven-hour period, will be played inside a



Garry Kasparov



Viswanathan Anand

soundproof glass both specially constructed for the championship on the Trade Centre's 107th floor observation deck.

Kasparov feels this championship will have a lasting impact.

"This is the game that was played at the top of the world," Kasparov said.

Kasparov's extensive experience in World Championship finals — gained in an extraordinary series of faceoffs with archrival Anatoly Karpov that stretched over a record shattering 140 games and 700 hours of play — may be a crucial factor.

If Anand can survive Kasparov's early onslaught, experts say, his fortunes will increase in the contest's second half.

The outspoken Kasparov, champion for almost 10 years, has and never lost a one-on-one series. Now 32, the Azerbaijan-born Russian became the youngest titlist in history when he seized the crown in 1985. He faces a 25-year-old Indian that Alburt gives a 40 per cent chance of victory.

"It will be a very tough match," Kasparov said. "He's really well placed to be a very strong and dangerous challenger."

Their personalities couldn't be more different.

For several years, Kasparov engaged in a bitter battle with the Soviet sports establishment, even speaking out against them in a dramatic 1985 Moscow news conference predating the reforms that opened Soviet society.

In 1993, he broke with chess's ruling body, known as FIDE, to form the New York-based PCA.

Karpov and Brooklyn grandmaster Gata Kamsky are scheduled to play their FIDE world championship match later this year, but have so far been unable to find a sponsor. A unification match between the separate titleholders is scheduled for next year.

With a seemingly boundless energy, Kasparov has aggressively promoted chess in the west, joking with American late-night TV host David Letterman and writing columns on Soviet politics for the Wall Street Journal.

Divorced last year, Kasparov is in New York with new girlfriend Julia Vovk, a striking 19-year-old student from Riga, Latvia.

In contrast to his exuberant opponent, Anand is from a tight-knit Brahmin family in the southern Indian city of Madras. Both his parents are in New York for the match.

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Scandinavian Ladies of Amman

will hold their first general meeting this Fall at the Marriott Hotel from 10:00 - 12:00 on Wednesday 13th Sept. Membership renewal New members welcome

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50,000 - 100,000	7	7	8.00	8.25	8.25	8.50
100,000 - ABOVE	7.25	7.25	8.25	8.50	8.50	8.75

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Request for Technical Proposal (RFTP)

Formative Qualitative Research Jordan National Population Commission

The Jordan National Population Commission (NPC) request Technical Proposals for conducting formative qualitative research. The purpose of the research contract to be developed on the basis of RFTP responses is to gather information on attitudes and beliefs, on the Jordan level, bearing on birth spacing practice and decision-making that can inform the design of appropriate messages and materials. The research will consist of no fewer than 18 focus group discussions (FGD). Field work is to be conducted in Oct.-Nov., 1995, with final reporting to be completed by first week of Jan. 1996.

The successful bidder must have experience in conducting qualitative research. Responses to the RFTP must contain the following:

1. An introduction to the agency, including experience in qualitative research and family planning studies;
2. A research plan, including criteria for the selection of focus group participants, a draft discussion guide, proposed locations for fieldwork, and a timetable (not to exceed three months) as well as a plan for analysis, transcription and report writing;
3. Curriculum vitae of key personnel assigned to this project, including CVs of FGD moderators.

All written responses to the RFTP will be reviewed by an NPC Committee. Responses will be evaluated according to the following point allocation:

1. Experience and ability to undertake the Scope of work **33.3 Points**
2. Proposed research plan, including concept statement, sampling, data processing and analysis **33.3 Points**
3. Experience of key personnel **33.4 Points**

Following review of RFTPs on technical grounds and shortlisting of agencies, the NPC committee will review relevant cost proposals. (Cost proposals should be submitted to the NPC under separate cover).

The successful bidder will be announced by September 28, 1995. The selected agency will be contracted to undertake the planning, implementation, analysis and reporting as outlined in the Scope of Work.

All bidders are required to get the research Brief, and the cost proposal form before submitting their offers. All written responses to this RFTP must be submitted in a sealed envelope no later than Sept. 23, 1995. Proposals must be submitted in (both) English and Arabic to:

Mr. Nabih Salamah, Secretary General, or
Ms. Lina Cardan, Communication and Information Manager
Jordan National Population Commission
P.O. Box 5116 - Amman - 11166 Jordan.
Tel.: 8252412 Fax: 827350
Al-Madina Al-Munawara Street. Between Chen Chinese Restaurant and Joliffe Restaurant. Opposite to Pizza Hut Restaurant.

Settlers attack Hebron school

HEBRON. Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Jewish settlers stormed a Palestinian girls school in Hebron on Sunday, beat its headmistress and then injured at least four pupils who took part in a street protest, a municipal spokeswoman said.

Israeli police and the West Bank city's Arab municipality said settlers had gone into the school to take down a Palestinian flag, just hours before Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were due to renew talks on Hebron's future.

"The school is about 20 metres from a Jewish settlement," the spokeswoman said. "Some settlers attacked the school and tried to get rid of the Palestinian flag on it." "They attacked the headmistress and even the little girls there with bottles and pipes. This led to the injury of some girls. I have the names of four of them," she said.

Some 400 Jews, protected by Israeli soldiers, live in Hebron, home to 120,000 Palestinians.

The city and its security problems are at the heart of Israel-PLO negotiations on expanding self-rule beyond the Gaza Strip and West Bank enclave of Jericho.

"There was some sort of altercation between the schoolmistress and a woman settler," a police spokesman said.

Woman settler Anat Cohen told army radio the school mistress had beaten her for taking video pictures of the flag fracas.

She said the injuries occurred when hysterical schoolgirls, preparing to march from the school to city hall, "ran into each other."

Witnesses said three settlers stormed the school and that 10 girls, aged six to 11, were kicked and stoned by settlers, and taken to hospital.

Hebron is a frequent flashpoint of Arab-Israeli violence, including the massacre by a Jewish settler of at least 30 Palestinian worshippers in Hebron's Ibrahimi Mosque in February 1994.

On Friday, gunmen dressed in Israeli military uniforms killed a 25-year-old Palestinian in Halhoul, near Hebron. A right-wing Jewish group claimed responsibility.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Israeli cabinet at its weekly meeting on Sunday that Jewish attacks in Hebron would only serve the PLO in talks on wider self-rule and Israeli troop redeployment, his office said.

"If it turns out that (Friday's) action was carried out by Jews, it will... be used as a means for strengthening their demand for the presence of the Palestinian police to protect the Palestinian residents (in Hebron)," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying.

Under the 1993 Israel-PLO peace deal which launched self-rule in Gaza Strip and

the West Bank enclave of Jericho 16 months ago, Israel was to have pulled its troops out of "populated areas" in the West Bank by July 1994.

Israeli security concerns following a series of suicide bombings by militants delayed the pullout. Now, Israel says soldiers must remain in parts of Hebron to protect settlers from attack.

"Our position is that troops must redeploy from the whole of the city but we are ready to discuss temporary special security arrangements in the heart of the city where settlers live," chief Palestinian negotiator Ahmad Qouriea said.

Israel will offer the PLO more control over Hebron at negotiations between military experts to extend autonomy across the West Bank due to resume Sunday, officials said.

In a bid to break the deadlock over the flashpoint city, Mr. Rabin has backed a new plan to withdraw more Israeli forces from the city in seven stages.

Israeli General Uzi Dayan would put the proposal to Palestinian General Abdul Razek Yehiya at a meeting Sunday evening in the Red Sea resort of Eilat, said officials, who refused to be named.

Israeli forces would pull out first from Halhoul, just north of Hebron.

The plan also includes: Removal of some army positions from Hebron;

Reopening of Hebron streets and a market;

More permits for Hebronites to work in Israel;

A greater share of water resources;

Deployment of armed Palestinian police in some areas;

Setting up of Palestinian police posts.

In exchange Israel wants the PLO to drop demands to take overall control of Hebron the same as in the six other main West Bank towns.

The PLO rejected last week a proposal under which Israel would cede civil and municipal control over Hebron, but maintain overall responsibility.

The compromise would have seen Palestinian police deployed in some areas from which Israeli forces would withdraw — but details were not leaked.

Police Minister Moshe Shalut told Israel Radio on Sunday it was still possible to strike an agreement by the end of the week to extend Palestinian autonomy. The accord would be signed the following week in Washington, he said.

"It is obvious to the Palestinians that we will keep responsibility for security and the negotiations concern the number of Palestinian police who will be deployed," Mr. Shalut said.

Israel meanwhile officially handed over to the Palestinians control of municipal affairs and collecting statistics, Palestinian sources said.

Hamas activist found dead in Israeli prison

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An activist from the Hamas organisation was found dead in an Israeli prison cell Sunday, and police said he was beaten to death by three cellmates.

Marwan Kanafani, spokesman for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, expressed doubt about the Israeli version and demanded an investigation to find out if his death was the result of an interrogation by Israeli agents.

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said there were signs of beating on the body of Abdul Fatah Saeed Rantisi, 32, who was serving a 15-year sentence for killing a suspected Arab informer.

The three thought Rantisi was collaborating with the prison authorities, Mr. Bar-Chen said. "They tied his hands and his feet and beat him till he was dead."

"They apparently felt they had nothing to lose — one was serving two life sentences, plus 25 years, another had three life sentences and the third 99 years," Mr. Bar-Chen said. They were involved in killing Israelis.

A prisoner told guards that Rantisi was not feeling well. When they arrived, he was already dead.

Mr. Bar-Chen said Rantisi, whose body will undergo an autopsy, had not been injured during questioning by Israeli security agents.

Mr. Kanafani, however, demanded a probe to find "the real reasons" for the killing. "It comes after the Israeli government gave the green light to interrogators to use violence against detainees," said Mr. Kanafani.

He referred to a government decision to continue using a much-criticised process of shaking prisoners during interrogations. The shaking, known as "tiltulim" in Hebrew, has been blamed for at least one prisoner's death.

There are currently some 5,000 Palestinians being held in Israeli jails.

The Palestinian Mandela Institute, which monitors prison conditions, said Rantisi was an activist in Hamas. He had been in jail since November 1993.

In Nablus, in the West Bank, five armed men kidnapped member of the Fateh Hawks Sunday, a Palestinian source said.

The men who seized Nail Shbitah may have been supporters of a Fateh official in the northern West Bank, Issam Abu Baker, who was suspended from the group one month ago, the source added.

After the kidnapping, 25 Fateh Hawks, an elite armed corp of the Fateh faction, marched through the old town of Nablus armed with grenades, pistols and machine guns.

EU ministers criticise French N-test, discuss security and WEU structure

SANTANDER (R) — European Union (EU) foreign ministers complained on Sunday at French nuclear tests but focused on the linked issue of the future European defence structure.

French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette found himself virtually alone at the end of the two-day meeting as almost all his EU neighbours criticised the resumed nuclear testing programme in the Pacific.

Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Luxembourg, Ireland, Finland, Greece and Sweden registered strong protests, with many calling for an immediate halt.

Britain made no criticism and Germany's objection was muted.

But the ministers said the tone of the protests was far calmer than the heated exchanges on Saturday when Mr. De Charette accused his critics of being bad Europeans.

However, the ministers did

not let the issue overshadow the far broader topic of European defence.

"The nuclear issue was linked to a more serious debate on EU security architecture," Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said after the meeting.

Current EU President Spain, which is drawing up a discussion paper on the whole issue, to be fed into next year's intergovernmental conference, tabled a list of basic principles including keeping defence policy in national rather than EU hands.

Mr. Poos said the paper was very well received, although there was some division of opinion on the future status of the Western European Union (WEU) the bloc's fledgling defence arm.

"We have collective defence in NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), and we have the WEU," Mr. Poos said. "We all agreed that this has to be made more operational and

its links with the EU defined in a clearer way."

But he added that the ministers fell into two camps, one led by France wanting the WEU to take over EU defence policy, and the other led by Britain wanting to keep it national.

Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, who chaired the meeting, said all had agreed that the tightening of links between the 10-nation WEU and the 15-nation EU would take time.

Mr. Solana also said that future EU members should join the WEU.

New EU members Sweden, Finland and Austria have not joined the WEU. Ireland is likewise not a member and Denmark has only observer status.

"It would be difficult to contemplate a future security system for Europe in which EU members are not in the WEU," Mr. Solana told a news conference. He added that the ministers saw no

danger of the WEU becoming just another EU institution.

In the context of the defence issue, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel flatly rejected Russian complaints that the EU and NATO risked restarting the cold war with their eastward expansion plans.

He also rebuffed calls from the Russian parliament on Saturday for Russia to withdraw from NATO's Partnership for Peace programme in protest at the alliance's expansion plans and its bombing campaign in Bosnia.

"We shouldn't overemphasise matters, but we should say clearly that we reject the criticism," Mr. Kinkel said.

During their two-day informal meeting the ministers also made the most optimistic sounds to date on the prospect for peace in Bosnia, discussing for the first time an aid plan to help reconstruct the ravaged region.

Abequa cleared of kidnap charge

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Criminal Court on Sunday acquitted Mohammad Ismail Abequa of kidnapping charges reducing his 16-year sentence for murder and kidnapping to 15 years.

The court's decision came after a 40-day review of the case by the Court of Cassation which found Mr. Abequa not guilty of kidnapping his two children from the U.S. and fleeing to Jordan but guilty of killing his wife.

The criminal court reviewed the case and concurred with the Court of Cassation's decision.

Mr. Abequa, a Jordanian-American, was sentenced on July 10, to 15 years with hard labour on charges of strangling his estranged wife Nihal, 40, in her apartment in New Jersey on July 4, 1994 in a dispute over the custody of their two children, Lisa, 7 and Sami, 4. He was given another year for kidnapping. Sunday's ruling eliminates the one-year sentence for kidnapping.

According to the prosecution, Mr. Abequa put a plastic bag over his wife's head, stuffed her body under her bed and fled to Jordan with the children.

On July 20, he was apprehended by the Jordanian authorities at the request of U.S. authorities. Four days later he confessed to committing the crime.

"I do not think it was a fair sentence because the Court of Cassation did not consider the mitigating circumstances," Mr. Abequa's attorney, Masoud Khalifeh, told the Jordan Times Sunday.

Mr. Khalifeh said that he was hoping that the court would consider that Mr. Abequa had killed his wife in a fit of fury.

During the four-month trial, the defence tried to prove that Mr. Abequa, who was separated from his wife, killed her in rage after learning that she was seeing another man.

But the court rejected the (Continued on page 2)

France warns of more bombs

PARIS (R) — French police hunted a key suspect on Sunday in a wave of mystery bomb attacks and the government said the country faced a terror offensive by urban guerrillas.

Newspapers prominently displayed five-year-old police photographs of Algerian-born Khaled Kelkal, 24, whose fingerprints were found on an unexploded bomb planted on a high-speed TGV rail line near Lyon last month.

He was the first direct suspect identified in attacks which have killed seven people and wounded more than 120 and the Interior Ministry promised a "big reward" for his capture.

It had previously offered \$200,000 for decisive clues.

Police had apparently hoped to catch Kelkal, a resident of the troubled Lyon suburbs of Vaux-en-Velin who has been in prison for petty crime, in a Saturday swoop on Lyon suburbs.

They detained 31 people, some of them reported to be relatives of Kelkal. Twenty-two were still being held on Sunday.

The swoops followed the sixth attack in as many weeks, a car bomb explosion which wounded 14 people outside a school in the Lyon suburb of Villeurbanne.

Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debré said no target was off-limits for the guerrillas bent on a terror offensive.

"The terrorists want not only to kill, but also to spread terror and panic," he told the weekly Journal du Dimanche.

"They can strike anywhere... we must stop them by all means," he said.

Prime Minister Alain Juppé, saying that France was facing "a real challenge," summoned ministers later in the day to review implementation of a wide-ranging security plan.

Mr. Debré said nearly 4,500 extra security forces were drafted to guard airports, railway stations and department stores, including armed troops on security duty for the first time since the 1990 crisis.

Mr. Debré appeared to cast doubt on the widely floated theory that Armed Islamic Group (GIA) Algerian

fundamentalist rebels were behind the bombings — either to force France to end all support to the Algerian government or avenge the French police killing of four GIA hijackers in Marseille last Christmas.

"I hear people saying that the GIA is responsible. Maybe," he said. "Only the probe under way can establish who are the authors of the attacks and who is behind them."

Some French newspapers have speculated that Algerian secret services could be behind the attacks to force a crackdown on GIA networks in France — a theory forcefully defended by French lawyer Jacques Vergès at the Brussels trial of a suspected GIA leader.

Mr. Debré said France would be "indignant" if Sweden rejected its request for the extradition of Abdul Karim Deneche, a suspected GIA member wanted in connection with the first bomb attack which killed seven people on a Paris commuter train.

Sweden says he was at home in Stockholm on the day of the July bombing and could be expelled rather than handed over.

Press reports linked Kelkal to another attack related to Algerian strife. They said he was wanted in connection with a shooting in which five policemen were wounded at a police roadblock near Lyon last July — days after Muslim cleric Abdul Hakim Sahraoui was shot dead at his Paris mosque.

They said spent cartridges found at the roadblock were from the same batch as those used to kill Sahraoui, a moderate fundamentalist who had been threatened by the GIA.

Lawyer Richard Zelmato, who defended Kelkal five years ago when he was jailed on petty crime charges, said he was at the time a good student in chemistry and was not a devout Muslim.

Friends of Kelkal described him as a quiet man, sometimes attending mosque, who had gone off crime and recently married. His sister said she had not seen him since last June.

7,000 Egyptians flee Libya; Qadhafi says 'spies' beware

SALLOUM, Egypt (Agencies) — Some 7,000 illegal Egyptian workers have fled Libya in the past four days after being thrown out of their homes, border police said on Sunday.

The Egyptians, who mostly lived in Tripoli and the northeastern city of Benghazi, were working as day labourers without permits, they said.

"They threw us out of our homes and asked for work permits. They tried to take our passports. But we refused and decided to leave," one Egyptian told AFP after crossing the border.

"They gave orders forbidding Egyptians to live there. So we were thrown out into the street," another said.

But Suad Al Kurubi, a spokeswoman for the Libyan embassy in Cairo, denied any Egyptians had been ejected. "There has been no decision. No Egyptians have left, all of them are here."

Libyan Interior Minister Mohammad Higazi told the Arab daily Al Sahra Al Awsat on Sunday the sweeps had picked up "600,000 peo-

ple, not one of them Egyptian."

Four camps had been set up "to gather African infiltrators living illegally in Libya to prepare them for deportation," he added, without saying which country the workers were from although they included Sudanese.

Libyan authorities stepped up a campaign against illegal immigrants following clashes in Benghazi on Wednesday, which reportedly left 20 Muslim militants and 10 policemen dead. Tripoli has denied any unrest occurred.

A spokesman for the Sudanese embassy in Cairo confirmed the expulsions but could not provide a number, saying only that "preparations have been made at the border" with Libya.

Diplomats reached by telephone Sunday in the capital Tripoli reported a crackdown was under way in Benghazi, a Mediterranean port east of Tripoli where the clashes erupted. There was no official word on the violence, but an opposition source said 3,500 people had been detained in Benghazi and other

Libyan cities.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has warned anyone tempted to work for foreign, especially Western, intelligence services that Libyans would trample them to death if they were caught.

In a speech on Saturday in the town of Bani Walid, 150 kilometres southeast of Tripoli, he brought up the case of an attempted coup last year by officers connected with the area.

An army officer from the local tribe, the Wirfala, said in a televised confession at the time that they plotted to recruit officers from the tribe to prepare for a U.S. invasion.

Colonel Qadhafi said: "The American intelligence services wanted to bring disgrace upon Bani Walid and Bani Walid, but they failed because the conspiracy... was smashed."

"As from today, no traitor, no spy, no agent, no coward, no weakling and no despicable person can hope to live among us anymore. We will corner him as we have cornered the traitors here."

'All tracks must be addressed'

(Continued from page 1)

Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty signed at Camp David under American sponsorship was aimed at "preventing a new war," the Jordan-Israel agreement had "more meaning since it also includes close economic cooperation and interaction between the two sides."

While the Camp David agreement was largely a "test of intention" based on Israeli questions over Egypt's sincerity to make peace, "there was no such question" when it came to Jordan, said the ambassador.

He also noted the political situation, both in the Middle East and in the international scene, varied dramatically between 1978 and 1994.

Dr. Muasher's warning underlined the serious problems facing Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

In his comments on Sunday, Dr. Muasher predicted that "real problems" will prop up when Israel and the PLO start their final status negotiations in May 1996 called for in the September 1993 accord.

"The crucial issues of Jerusalem and the refugees will have to be addressed in the final status negotiations, and this is when real problems will start," the ambassador predicted, noting the importance the Arabs and Muslims attaches to Jerusalem and the nearly three million Palestinian refugees who are scattered in squalid camps in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon as well as the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel, which seized Arab East Jerusalem — holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims — in 1967 and unilaterally annexed it as its "indivisible and eternal capital" immediately thereafter, has vowed not to relinquish the city.

Palestinians see the eastern sector of Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state. Jordan, along with other Muslim countries, support the Palestinian position and emphasise the Muslim religious character of the city.

Israel has also ruled out any return of the Palestinian refugees, who had lost their homes when the Jewish state was created in 1948.

Pakistan demands Afghan apology for embassy attack

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said on Sunday that Pakistan would move its embassy to "safe place" in Afghanistan after demonstrators ransacked and burned its Kabul mission last week.

After visiting the wounded ambassador and other embassy staff at a military hospital at Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, she told reporters that Pakistan had considered breaking diplomatic ties with Afghanistan, but had decided not to.

Ms. Bhutto said she had told her foreign minister "not to keep the embassy in Kabul and transfer it to a safe place."

Pakistani Foreign Minister Aseff Ahmad Ali said Islamabad had sent a protest to

president Burhanuddin Rabbani's government in Kabul, demanding an apology and compensation.

"They must apologise and make restitution," he told a news conference. "Unless they do that, we won't talk to them."

Mr. Ali said the "Kabul junta" was trying to make Pakistan a scapegoat for its "failure to conquer Afghanistan," adding:

"They are blaming all their follies on another country." This is the second time in less than 12 months that Pakistan's embassy in Kabul has been attacked by angry demonstrators, who accuse Pakistan of supporting rival Islamic factions trying to topple Mr. Rabbani's government.

This time they accused Islamabad of supporting the student-led Takban militia force, who overran the key western Afghan city of Herat last Tuesday (see page 2).

"This attack was because we are neutral and they want to drag us into their internal affairs," Ms. Bhutto said.

State-run Kabul Radio alleged Pakistan aided the Taliban in their offensive against government troops in western Afghanistan last week. The Taliban took control of Herat and a nearby air force base at Shindand, also in western Afghanistan.

Pakistan has long denied any involvement in Afghanistan's internal fighting, claiming to be an unbiased observer of the country's civil war. "It is easy to blame Pakis-

tan," Ms. Bhutto said. "Whenever (Rabbani's forces) lose they blame Pakistan."

Despite the troubled relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ms. Bhutto said she hoped to strengthen ties between the two Islamic nations.

"We will continue our relations, we think the Afghans need us," she said.

For 14 years, insurgents used Pakistan as a staging ground for their war against Russian soldiers and later the old communist regime in Kabul.

Relations nosedived last year after Pakistan closed its borders to refugees of the factional fighting.

Mr. Ali, the foreign minister, said the embassy attack

was part of a Rabbani government plan to curry favour with countries hostile to Pakistan, an apparent reference to India.

"It was a pre-meditated attack," Ambassador Kazi Humayun told Ms. Bhutto as he sat in his hospital bed with a stitched scalp, a broken tooth and facial bruises.

Ms. Bhutto rejected Afghan charges that Pakistan was helping the Talebans, saying her country was strictly neutral.

"We in Pakistan feel that this is a deliberate act to provoke Pakistan to abandon its policy of neutrality and to come out on the side of certain groups," Ms. Bhutto said. "We do not wish to be provoked and that is why we have been... trained."



Charles, Philip at war — press

LONDON (AFP)

Britain's heir to the throne the Prince of Wales is "at war" with his father the Duke of Edinburgh over nature conservation, the Mail On Sunday reported. Quoting sources close to Prince Charles, the paper said that their relations, "never particularly close," had now reached "an unprecedented low" in the wake of the duke's decision to fell 63 ancient oak trees in Windsor Great Park.

The felling of the trees was suspended half way through for review last week after conservationists raised a storm of protest, saying the oaks were a vital habitat of animals and insects. The Mail On Sunday said the prince had launched a savage attack in private on his father, president of the World Wide Fund for Nature, whom he accused of vandalism. "Their philosophies are totally different" towards such issues as the "management of the royal family's extensive properties, the paper quoted its source as saying.

Discovery halts work foundations of Tower of Pisa

PISA, Italy (AP) — A surprise discovery of underground pipes and concrete has halted efforts to shore up the leaning tower of Pisa, the head of the international preservation team announced. Expecting to find only dirt under the 12th-century tower, workers stumbled on a layer of concrete connected to the tower by two sets of steel pipes more than six centimetres wide and about 3.5 millimetres thick. Michele Jamiolkowski, president of an international committee charged caring for the tower, said work will be suspended until the committee evaluates the effect of the previous foundation work and redesigns its current project. There was no indication when work would resume. Plans call for laying a ring of concrete to anchor 10 steel cables that will ensure the tower's stability. Previously, 1,000 tonnes of lead were used as counterweights to bring the 54-metre (180-foot) tower two centimetres (.8 inch) toward centre. The layer of concrete and the pipes form "an unwanted and not projected" effort to widen the base of the tower and is not mentioned in the records of previous commissions or in the archives. Jamiolkowski said in a written statement. Claudio Bardelli, 55, the head custodian who has watched over the tower for the past 40 years, said the newly discovered works must be at least 80 to 90 years old.

Arsenic killed Napoleon — hair analysis

MONTPELLIER, France (AFP) — Napoleon was poisoned with arsenic during his Saint Helena exile, according to the latest analysis of some of his hair, a leading advocate of the poisoning thesis said here.

Studies of authenticated hairs at France's Atomic Studies Centre and at the FBI laboratory in Washington had shown abnormally high amounts of arsenic, reported Rene Maury of Montpellier University. Mr. Maury, an economics lecturer, upset historians last year by publishing a book on what he termed the "murder" of Napoleon. The prevalent view had been that the captive ex-emperor died of stomach cancer in 1821. Mr. Maury said the French tests found a general level of 6.60 parts per million of arsenic, rising to a concentration of 39.56 ppm at the tips, compared with the normal level of 0.8 ppm. The FBI hairs yielded 33.3 and 16.8 ppm in tests last month, Mr. Maury said. He said Napoleon was slowly poisoned from 1817 by the Count of Montholon, one of his companions in exile.